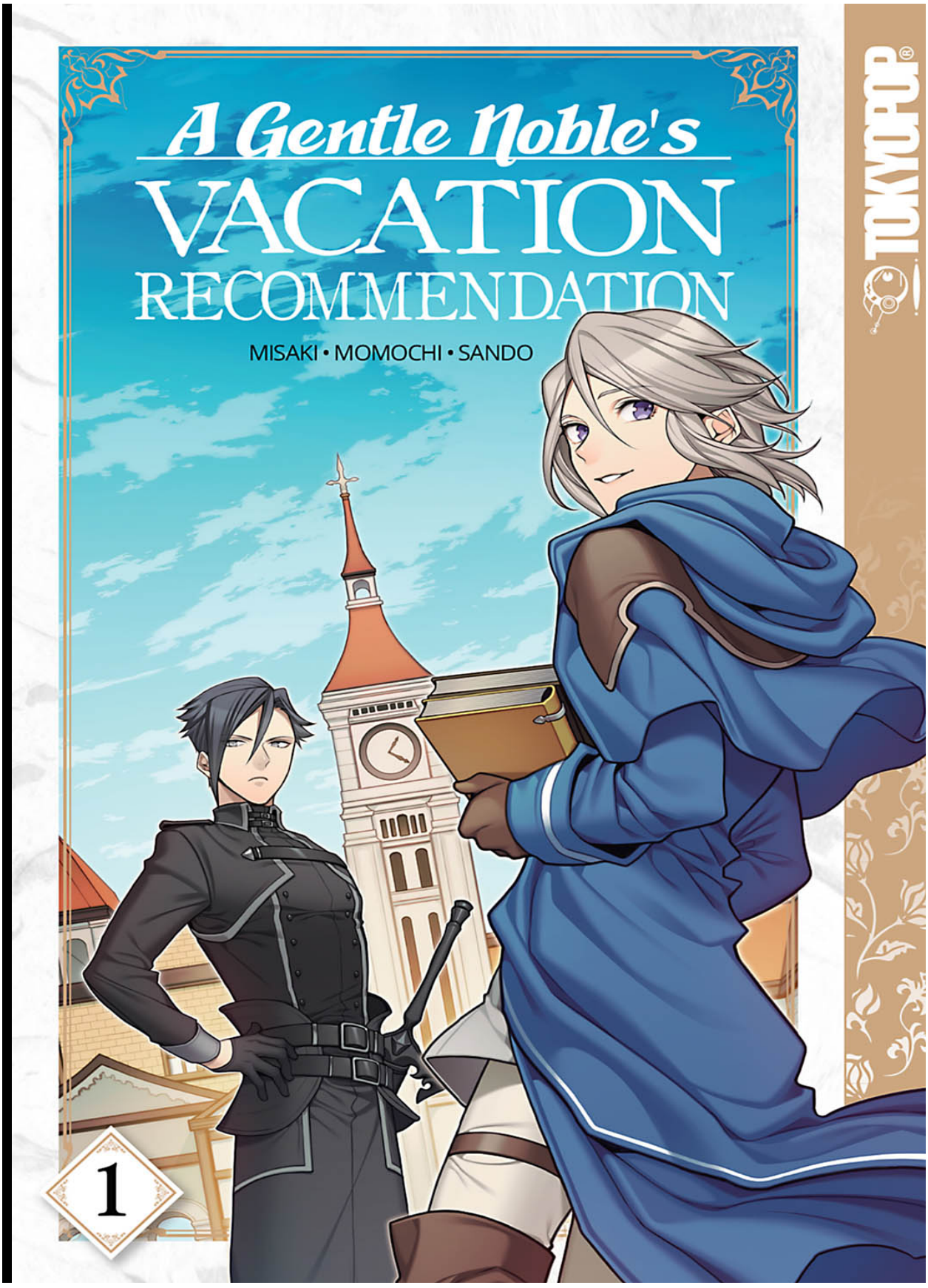
A Gentle Noble's VACATION RECOMMENDATION

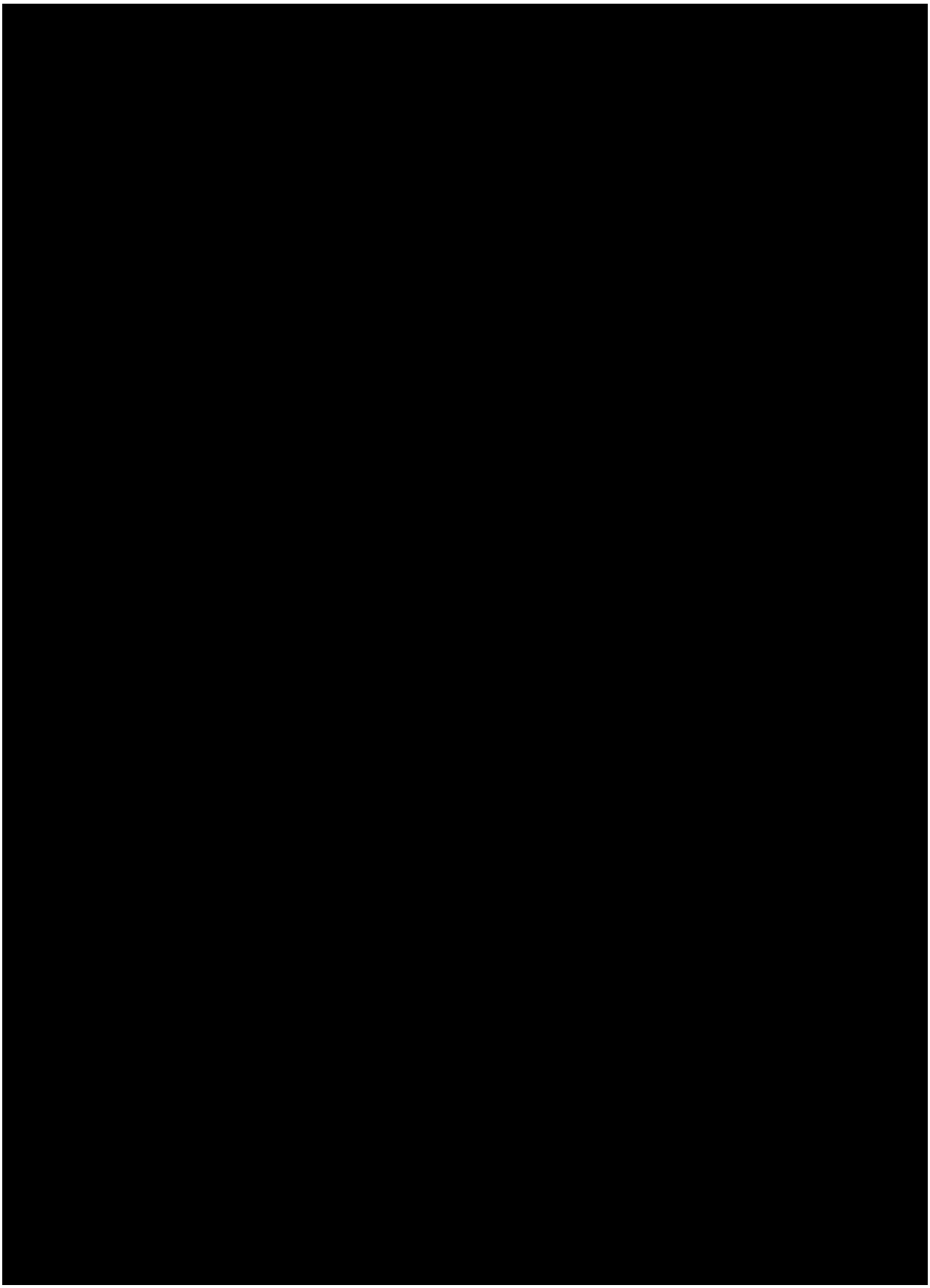
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A Gentle Noble's
VACATION
RECOMMENDATION
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A Gentle Noble's Vacation Recommendation, Volume 1

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Retouching and Lettering - Vibrraant Publishing Studio
Editor-in-Chief & Publisher - Stu Levy

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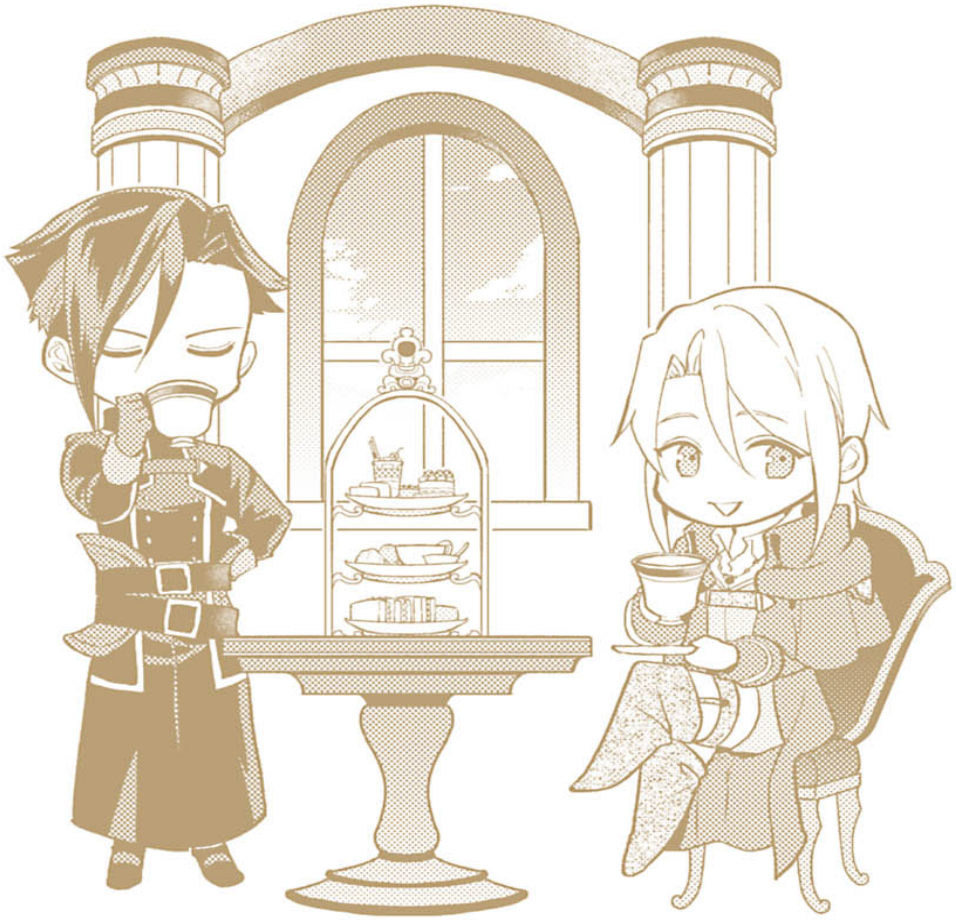
ISBN: 978-1-4278-6333-1

First TOKYOPOP Printing: June 2020
10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1
Printed in CANADA


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A Gentle Noble's VACATION RECOMMENDATION

Chapter 1






ひそ…
PEEK
ヒソ
WHISPER
ヒソ
WHISPER
IS THAT A NOBLE?
WHY IS HE IN THE LOWER CITY?
GOOD EVENING.
H-HELLO.
WHO KNOWS?
MAYBE HE'S TRAVELING INCOGNITO.
HOW PECULIAR.

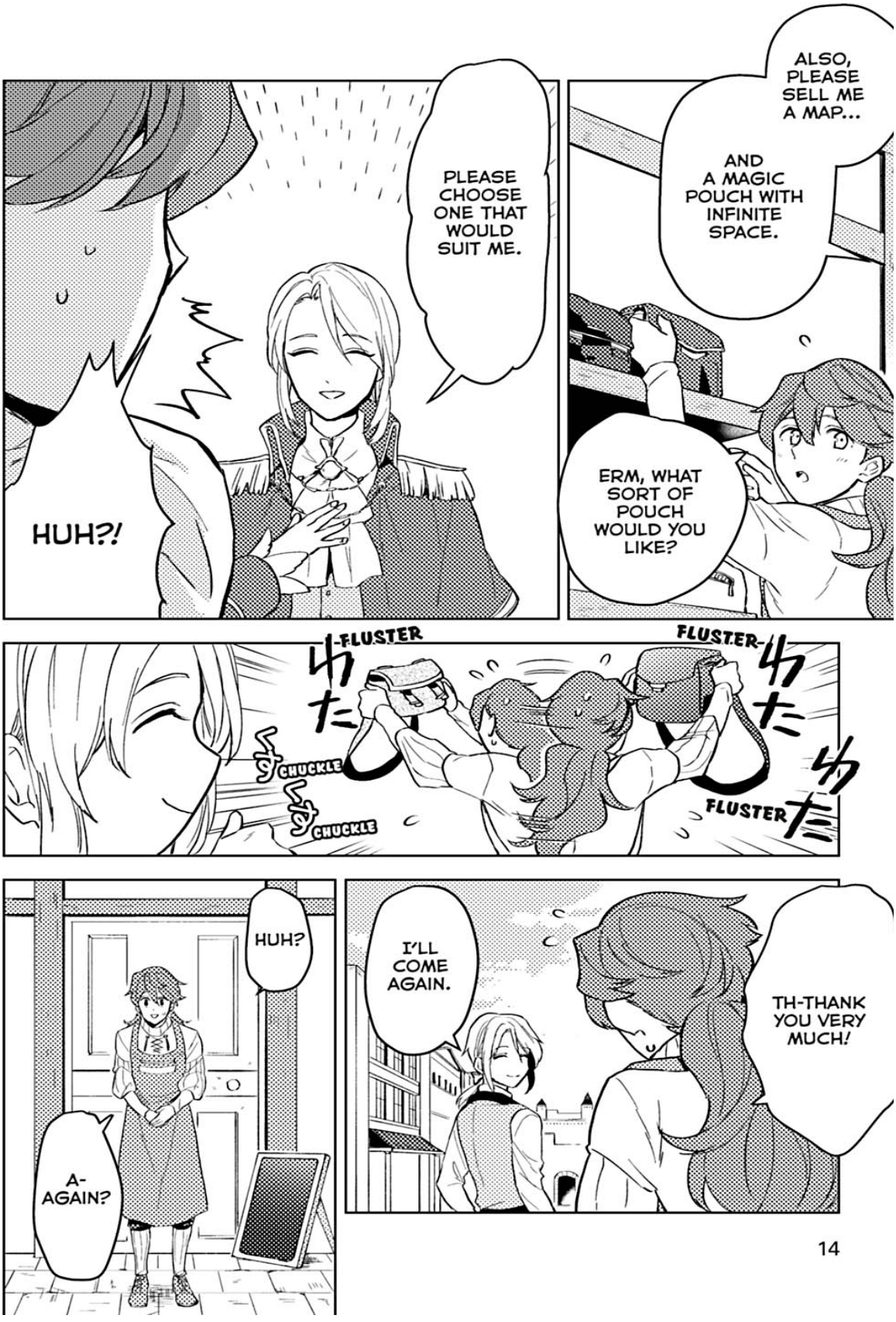

I UNDERSTAND THE LANGUAGE...
BUT, I DIDN'T RECOGNIZE THE CURRENCY BEING USED AT THAT STREET STALL.
THIS COUNTRY IS LARGE AND SEEMS WELL-DEVELOPED, SO I SHOULD KNOW OF IT.
ALSO...
I WONDER WHO THOSE PEOPLE WEARING ARMOR ARE.


I NEED MORE INFOR-MATION,
BUT I DON'T HAVE ANY MONEY. FIRST THINGS FIRST...
PERHAPS THEY'RE SOLDIERS.
BUT THERE ARE SO MANY...
Wide Range of Items! Please drop in on us.
We have confidence in appraisal.
CHUCKLE
ふっ


WEL-COME! PLEASE COME...
KER-CHAK
...IN?
GOOD EVENING.
WOULD YOU SPARE A MOMENT OF YOUR TIME?
UH, HUH?
OH, I MEAN, YES!
WHY IS A NOBLEMAN IN A PLACE LIKE THIS?
I HAVE SOME-THING I'D LIKE TO SELL.
BA-DUMP
BA-DUMP
Y-YES, SIR.

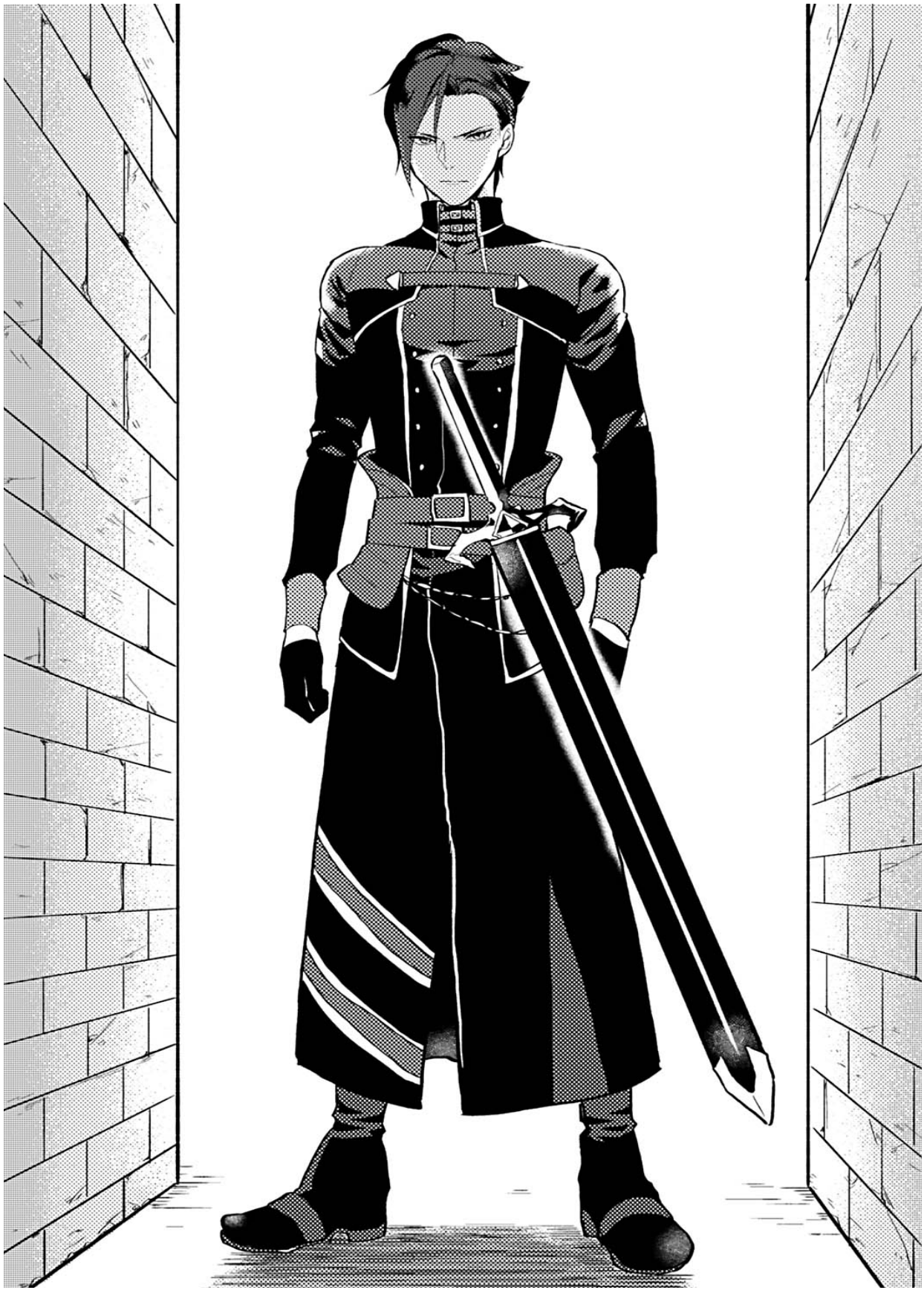

COULD YOU PLEASE APPRAISE IT FOR ME?
O-OF COURSE! I'LL TAKE A LOOK.
SHINE
THIS IS IT.
FLINCH
CLACK
HOW MUCH DO YOU THINK IT WILL GO FOR?
UM...
W-WOW... I'VE NEVER SEEN A DECO-RATION LIKE THIS BEFORE.
GULP

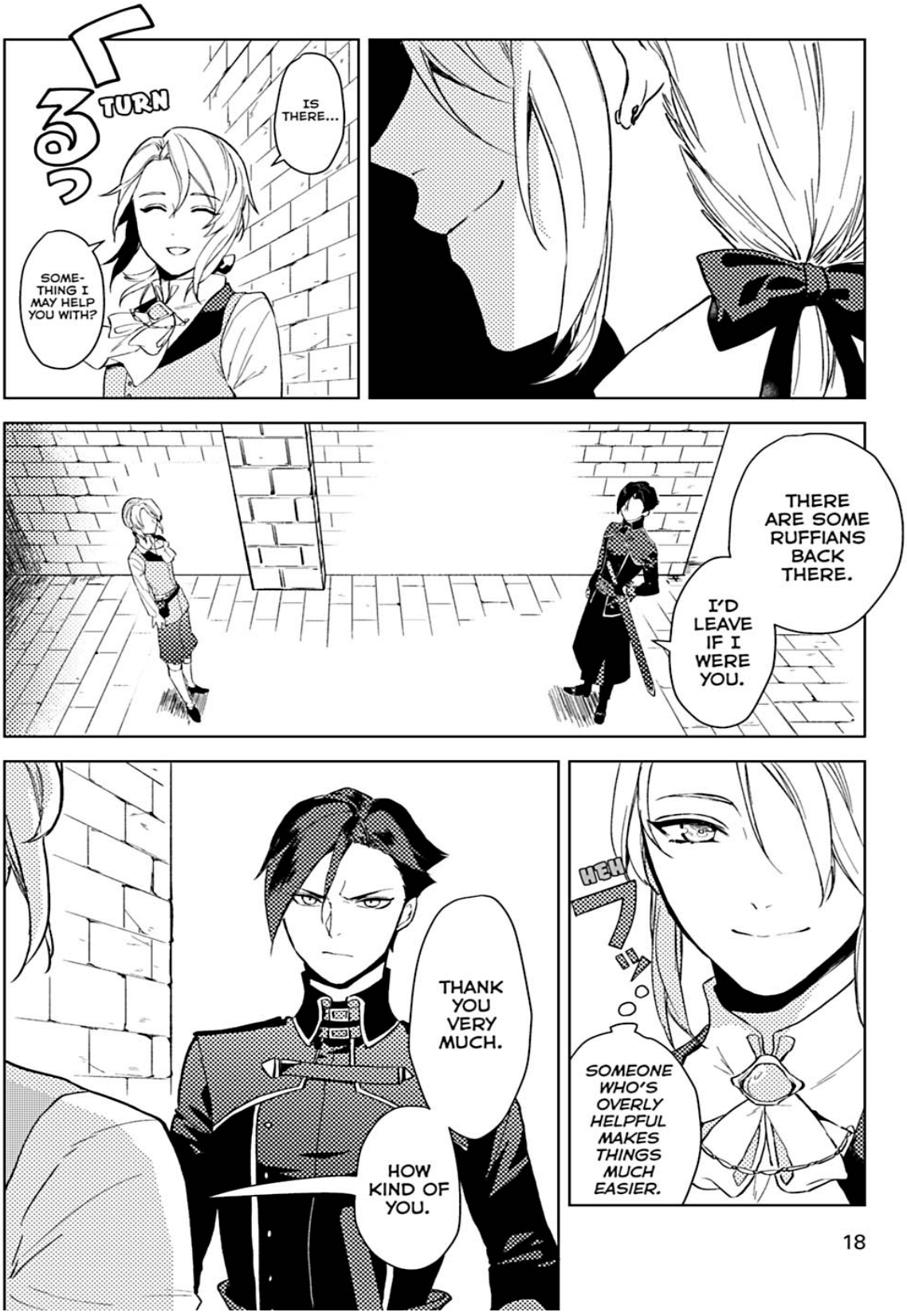

WH-
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
I'D SAY... ABOUT 200 GOLD COINS.
IT'S MADE OF VERY VALUABLE MATERIALS, SO...
TH-THANK YOU!
BEAM
なあああっ
I'LL TRUST YOUR AP-PRAISAL.
I HAVE A WAY OF READING PEOPLE, AFTER ALL.


HUH?!
PLEASE CHOOSE ONE THAT WOULD SUIT ME.
ERM, WHAT SORT OF POUCH WOULD YOU LIKE?
AND A MAGIC POUCH WITH INFINITE SPACE.
ALSO, PLEASE SELL ME A MAP...
FLUSTER
FLUSTER
CHUCKLE
CHUCKLE
FLUSTER
TH-THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
I'LL COME AGAIN.
HUH?
A-AGAIN?


LET'S SEE...
A TEMPERATE CLIMATE...
AND A LIVELY CITY.
THIS PLACE IS NOT SO DIFFERENT FROM MY OWN COUNTRY.
THE SIMILARITIES...
MAY BE WHY I FEEL SO OUT OF PLACE.
THERE'S ONLY SO MUCH I CAN DO TO GATHER INFORMATION BY MYSELF.
I'LL HAVE TO GET A LOCAL TO HELP ME.


I COULD ALWAYS ASK SOME OF THE PEOPLE I SAW AROUND TOWN, BUT I'M NOT SURE I CAN TRUST THEM.
I'D RATHER NOT CARELESSLY LET MY BACKGROUND SLIP.
I NEED SOMEONE WHO HAS THEIR OWN OPINION AND...
AT LEAST SOME SENSE OF MORALITY.
SOMEONE SMART ENOUGH TO UNDERSTAND MY PLANS...
CLACK
AND, IF POSSI-BLE...
CLACK
RUSTLE
HEY.



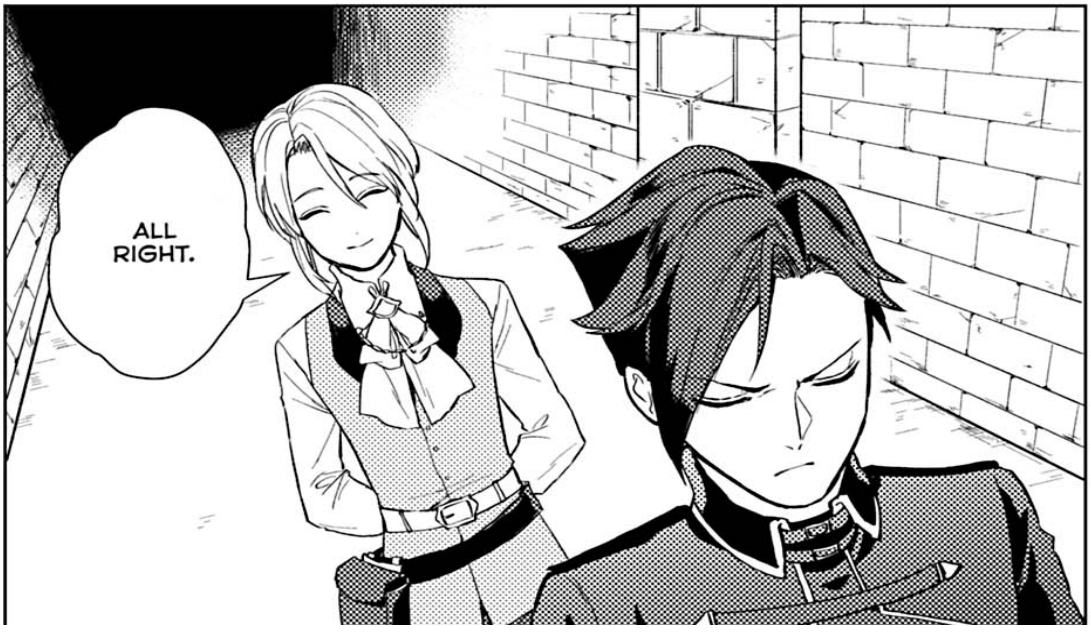

TURN
IS THERE...
SOME-THING I MAY HELP YOU WITH?
THERE ARE SOME RUFFIANS BACK THERE.
I'D LEAVE IF I WERE YOU.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
HOW KIND OF YOU.
HEH
SOMEONE WHO'S OVERLY HELPFUL MAKES THINGS MUCH EASIER.


FLICK
IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT TO THINK, BE MY GUEST.
CLINK
WHOOSH
SEE YA.

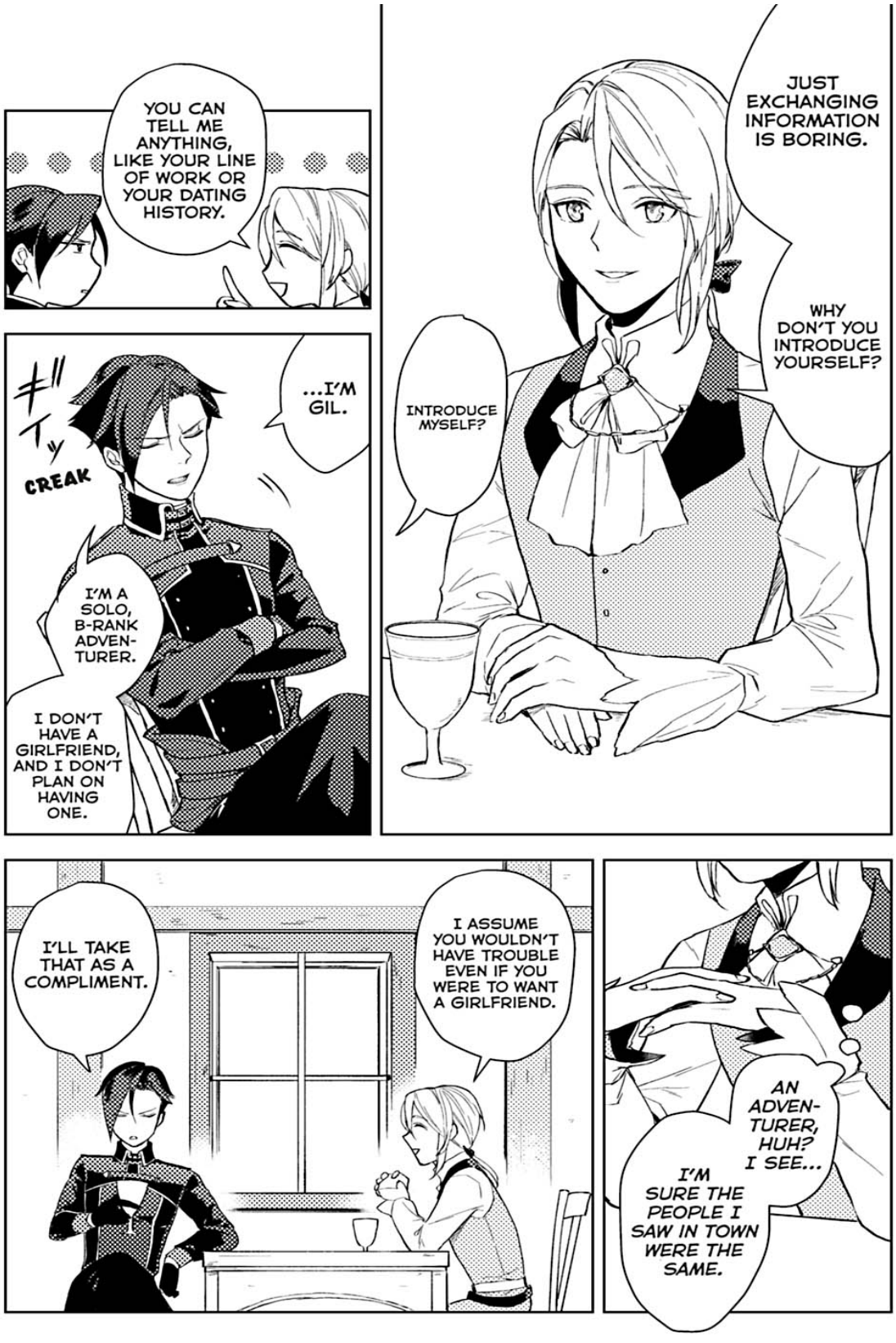

YOU HAVE EXCELLENT REFLEXES.
HERE.
チャリッ
CLINK
HAVE ANOTHER.
SNATCH
I WISH TO TALK WITH YOU.
CLENCH
WHAT FOR?

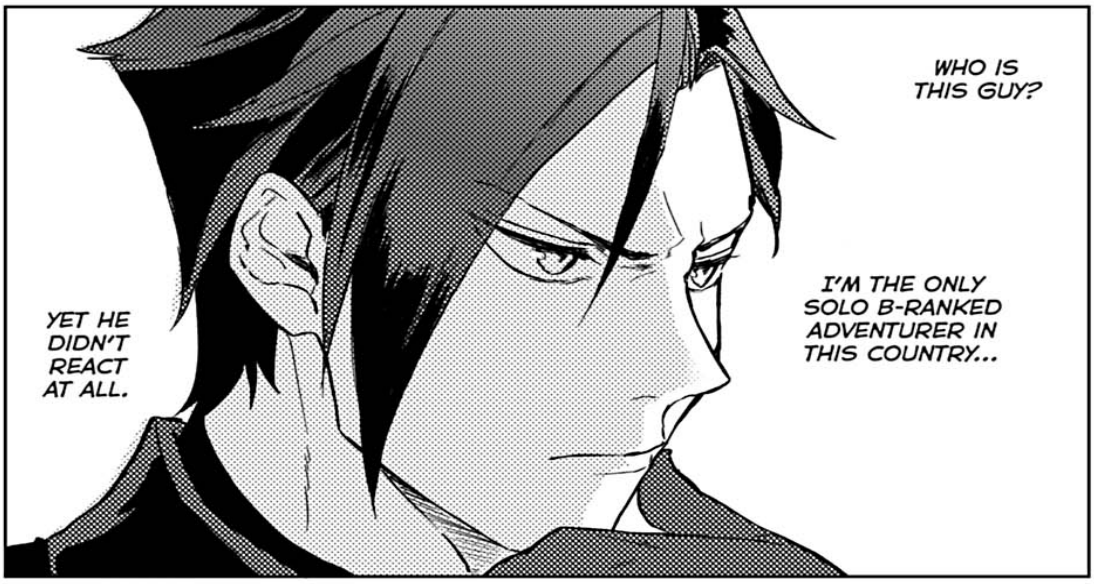

I JUST WANT TO TALK.
FOR NOW, AT LEAST.
IF YOU'RE IN TROUBLE, BOTHER SOMEONE ELSE.
THERE'S NO DISADVANTAGE IN TALKING, IS THERE?
ニコッ
SMILE
...

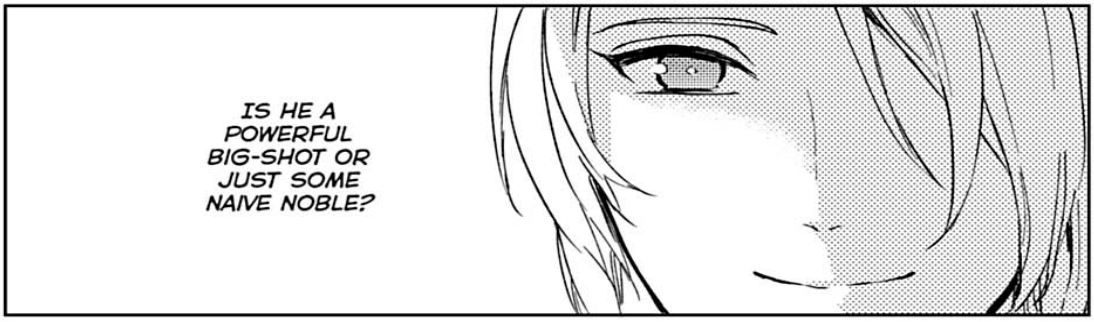

TCH.
COME WITH ME.


ALL RIGHT.

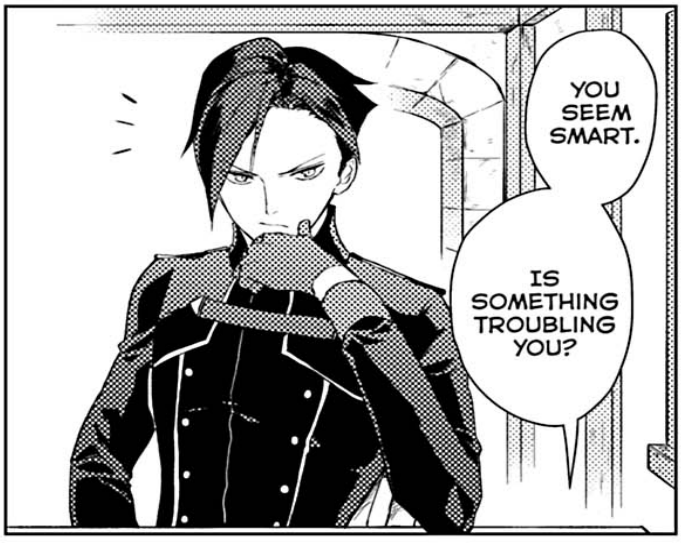

WE'RE BORROWING THE ROOM IN THE BACK.
チャリッ
CLINK
GOTCHA.
カラン
CLATTER
カラン
CLATTER
PUB
I CAN'T HANDLE ALCOHOL, SO I'D PREFER JUICE.
OKAY.
SO...
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT?
CLANK
コト!!


YOU CAN TELL ME ANYTHING, LIKE YOUR LINE OF WORK OR YOUR DATING HISTORY.
JUST EXCHANGING INFORMATION IS BORING.
WHY DON'T YOU INTRODUCE YOURSELF?
INTRODUCE MYSELF?
CREAK
...I'M GIL.
I'M A SOLO, B-RANK ADVEN-TURER.
I DON'T HAVE A GIRLFRIEND, AND I DON'T PLAN ON HAVING ONE.
I'LL TAKE THAT AS A COMPLIMENT.
I ASSUME YOU WOULDN'T HAVE TROUBLE EVEN IF YOU WERE TO WANT A GIRLFRIEND.
AN ADVEN-TURER, HUH? I SEE...
I'M SURE THE PEOPLE I SAW IN TOWN WERE THE SAME.


WHO IS THIS GUY?
I'M THE ONLY SOLO B-RANKED ADVENTURER IN THIS COUNTRY...
YET HE DIDN'T REACT AT ALL.


IS HE A POWERFUL BIG-SHOT OR JUST SOME NAIVE NOBLE?


I DOUBT YOU'D TELL ME EVEN IF I ASKED.
DO YOU WANT TO KNOW?
GIVE ME ALL THE DETAILS, EVEN YOUR DATING HISTORY.


YOU SEEM SMART.
IS SOMETHING TROUBLING YOU?


MY NAME IS LIZEL.
I AM CURRENTLY OUT OF WORK.
I HAVE NOTHING TO PROVE THAT I AM WHO I SAY I AM.
MY DATING HISTORY IS A SECRET.
HUH?
HE CAN'T PROVE HIS IDEN-TITY?
BUT IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE HE'S LYING...
CLENCH
THAT DOESN'T TELL ME ANYTHING ABOUT YOU.
YOU'RE NOT ASKING THE RIGHT QUESTIONS.


NOW THAT WE'VE INTRODUCED OURSELVES,
LET'S GET DOWN TO BUSINESS.
すぅ SLIDE
すぅ SLIDE
FWAP バサッ
FIRST, I'D LIKE YOU TO TELL ME MORE ABOUT THIS AREA.
A WHILE BACK, A MERCANTILE COUNTRY AND A COUNTRY THAT TRADED IN MAGICAL ORE WERE HAVING DISPUTES, BUT THINGS HAVE CALMED DOWN RECENTLY.
NO ONE REALLY PAYS ATTENTION TO THEIR SQUABBLES ANYMORE.
THE MERCANTILE NATION'S NAME SAYS IT ALL.
THE COUNTRY WITH MAGICAL ORE MUST BE THE ONE UP AGAINST THE MOUNTAIN RANGE.


THE MAGICAL ORE COUNTRY IS CALLED KAVANNAH.
THE MERCANTILE COUNTRY'S NAME IS MARCADE.
IS THE CAPITAL, PARTEDA.
AND THIS...
THAT'S A BROAD QUESTION.
YOU CAN JUST GIVE ME A GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF YOUR OPINION.
GIL, WHAT DO YOU THINK OF PARTEDA?

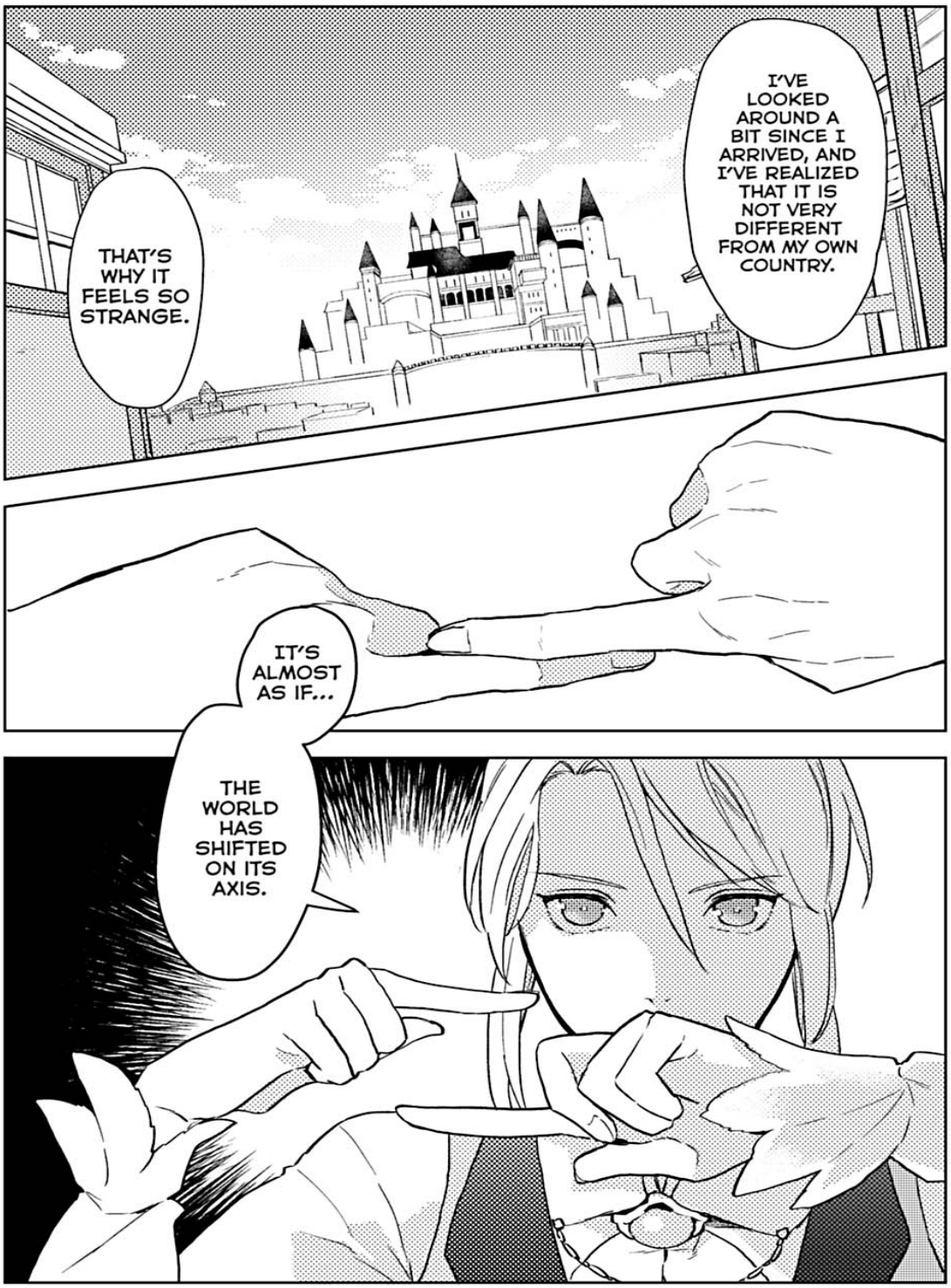

TAP
TAP
IT HAS GOOD INNS, GOOD FOOD, AND A GOOD NUMBER OF JOB REQUESTS.
IT'S A COMFORTABLE PLACE FOR ADVENTURERS.
I SEE.
?
I SEE...
SIGH
BUT MAY I ASK A FAVOR OF YOU?
I WAS PLANNING ON JUST ASKING QUESTIONS...

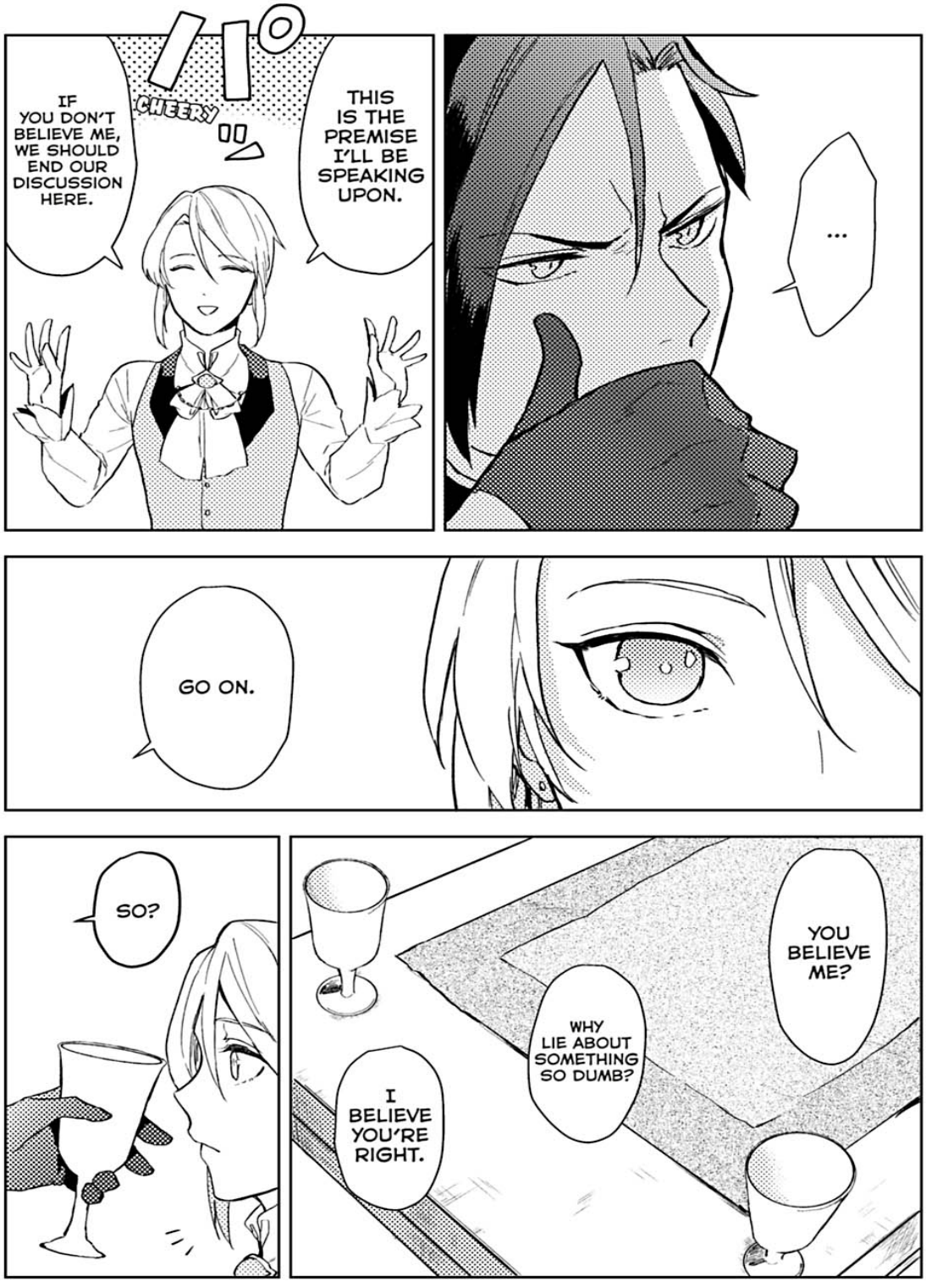

LEAN
A TOUR GUIDE,
A BODY-GUARD,
OR AN ADVEN-TURER WHO'S A COUR-TEOUS CHAPER-ONE...
SURE.
HMPH
...
WHICH ONE DO YOU WANT ME TO BE?
ALL OF THEM.

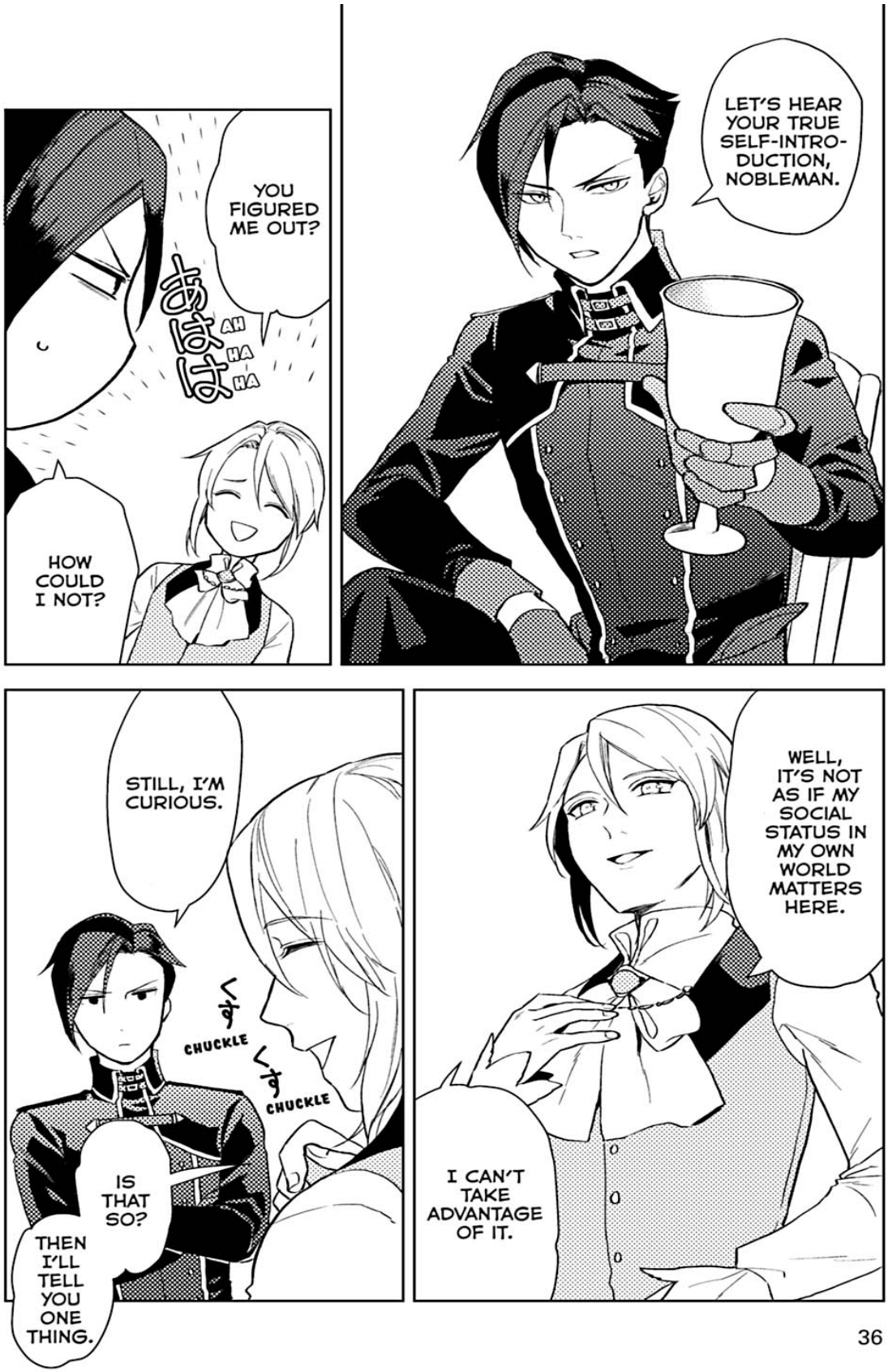

はぁ～
SIGH
YOU'RE PRETTY SHAME-LESS, HUH?
I DON'T BELIEVE SO.
ALL OF THEM?
WE'LL START WITH A MONTH.
I'M SURE THE FIRST FEW DAYS WILL CONSIST OF YOU SHOWING ME AROUND AND EXPLAINING THINGS.
AFTER THAT, YOU'D ONLY HAVE TO COME ALONG WHEN I TRULY NEED YOU.
HOW MUCH WILL YOU PAY ME?
AS MUCH AS YOU RIGHTFULLY EARN THROUGH YOUR WORK.


I'LL MAKE SURE TO EARN EVERY PIECE OF GOLD YOU HAVE OVER THE NEXT MONTH.
HAH!
WHO DO YOU THINK YOU'RE TALKING TO?
CLANK
NOW, I'LL ANSWER YOUR QUESTION PROPERLY.
YOU WISHED TO HEAR MY SELF-INTRODUCTION, CORRECT?
SMILE
THEN WE HAVE A DEAL.

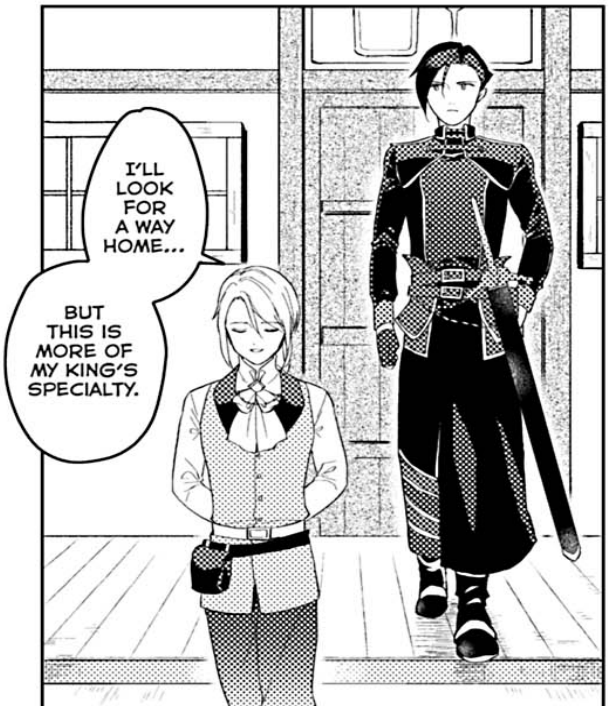

I KNOW NOTHING OF THIS COUNTRY...
BECAUSE I CAME FROM A PLACE THAT DOES NOT EXIST HERE.
YES.
SOME-WHERE NOT "HERE"?
MY COUNTRY IS NOT LISTED ON THIS MAP.
I DON'T KNOW IF IT HAPPENED BY COINCIDENCE OR THE POWER OF SOME THIRD PARTY...
BUT ONE MOMENT I WAS IN MY ROOM, AND THE NEXT I WAS STANDING IN THIS CITY.

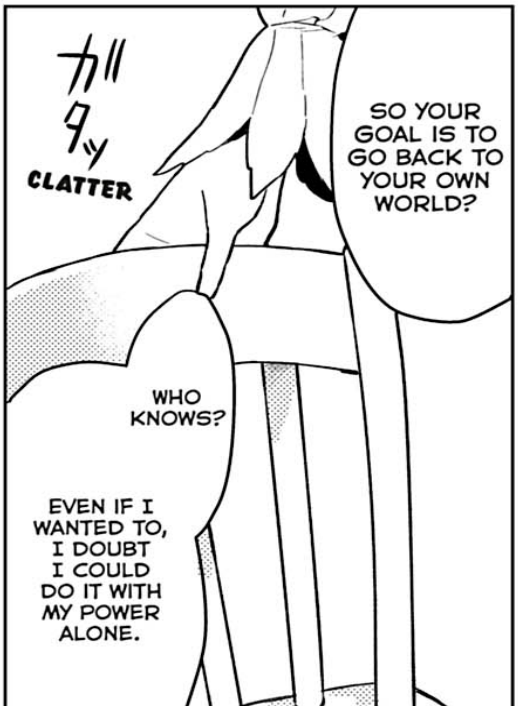

I'VE LOOKED AROUND A BIT SINCE I ARRIVED, AND I'VE REALIZED THAT IT IS NOT VERY DIFFERENT FROM MY OWN COUNTRY.
THAT'S WHY IT FEELS SO STRANGE.
IT'S ALMOST AS IF...
THE WORLD HAS SHIFTED ON ITS AXIS.


IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME, WE SHOULD END OUR DISCUSSION HERE.
CHEERS!
THIS IS THE PREMISE I'LL BE SPEAKING UPON.
...
GO ON.
SO?
YOU BELIEVE ME?
WHY LIE ABOUT SOMETHING SO DUMB?
I BELIEVE YOU'RE RIGHT.


LET'S HEAR YOUR TRUE SELF-INTRO-DUCTION, NOBLEMAN.
YOU FIGURED ME OUT?
おほほ AH HA HA
HOW COULD I NOT?
WELL, IT'S NOT AS IF MY SOCIAL STATUS IN MY OWN WORLD MATTERS HERE.
I CAN'T TAKE ADVANTAGE OF IT.
STILL, I'M CURIOUS.
くすくす CHUCKLE CHUCKLE
IS THAT SO?
THEN I'LL TELL YOU ONE THING.


I USED TO SERVE A WONDERFUL KING.
IT WAS MY PRIDE AND JOY TO SERVE HIM.
I HOPE HE IS DOING WELL...

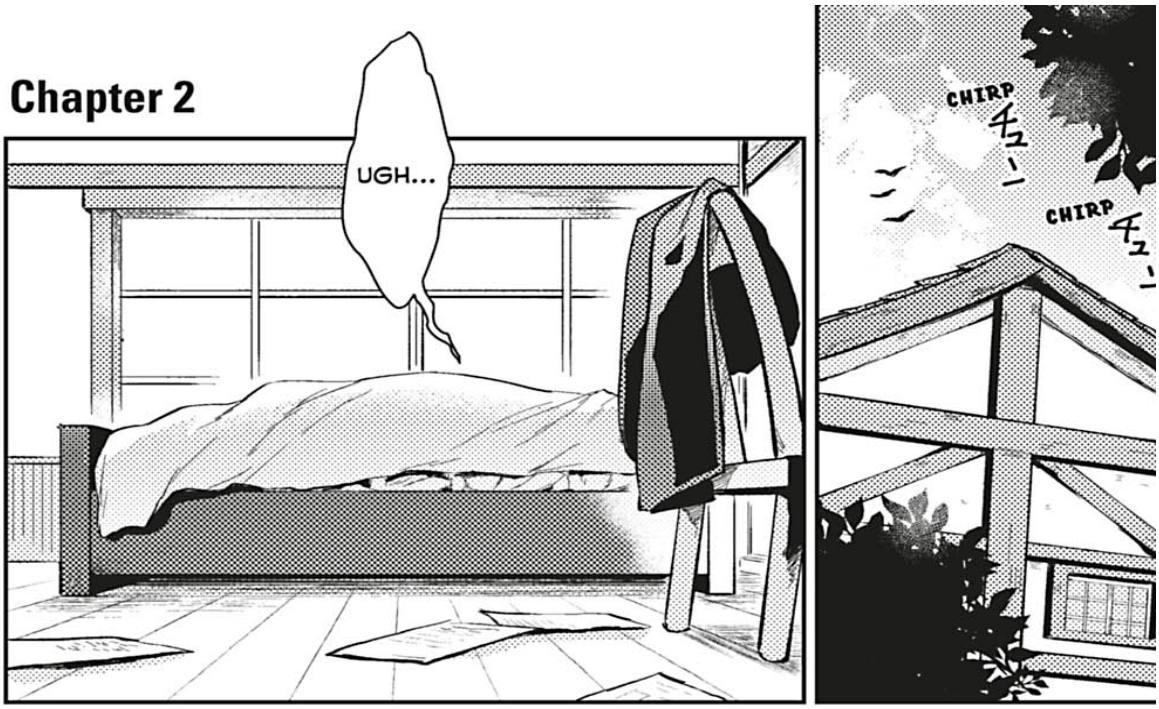

I'LL LOOK FOR A WAY HOME...
BUT THIS IS MORE OF MY KING'S SPECIALTY.


カリッ
CLATTER
SO YOUR GOAL IS TO GO BACK TO YOUR OWN WORLD?
WHO KNOWS?
EVEN IF I WANTED TO, I DOUBT I COULD DO IT WITH MY POWER ALONE.


IF HE IS TROUBLED BY MY ABSENCE, I'M SURE HE WILL FIND A WAY TO RETURN ME HOME.
UNTIL THEN...
I SUPPOSE I'LL THINK OF THIS AS A VACATION AND ENJOY MYSELF.
WELL...

A Gentle Noble's VACATION RECOMMENDATION

Chapter 2










WHAT DO YOU WANT?
A TOUR OF THE CITY?
YES, BUT...
GIL...
MAY I COME IN?
KNOCK
KNOCK
I'D ALSO LIKE YOU TO TEACH ME HOW TO BE AN ADVENTURER.


BEFORE THAT, YOU NEED TO CHANGE INTO SOMETHING SIMPLER.
WHY?
...
YOU'RE KIDDING.
NOPE!
BECAUSE YOU STICK OUT LIKE A SORE THUMB.
HUH?
INN


THIS IS THE GUILD.
ADVENTURER REGISTRATION, ACCEPTING REQUESTS, AND RECEIVING YOUR REWARD IS ALL DONE HERE.
キィ
SQUEAK
トゥ


WHISPER
ヒソ
WHISPER
ヒソ
HEY...
IT'S HIM.
IF IT ISN'T SINGLE STROKE.
AND HE'S WITH A NOBLE-MAN.
SINGLE STROKE NEVER PAIRS UP WITH ANYONE. HOW DID THAT GUY HIRE HIM?


ALL EYES ARE ON US.
YOU MUST BE FAMOUS, GIL.
TCH.
HALF OF IT IS YOUR FAULT.
I WONDER HOW MUCH HE PAID.
GOOD DAY.

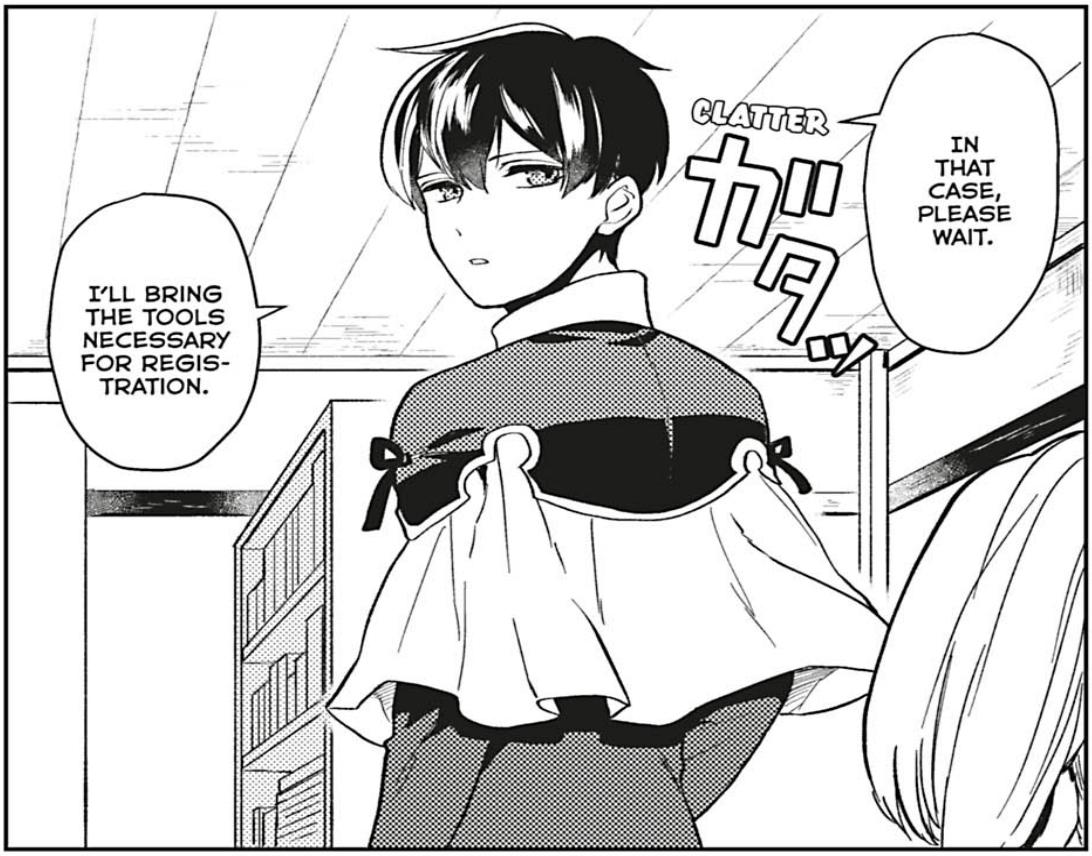

I'M SORRY, BUT THE GUILD MASTER IS CURRENTLY UNAVAILABLE.
PLEASE COME BACK ANOTHER DAY.
...
WHISPER
ひそひそ
YOU CAN'T REGISTER IF THE GUILD MASTER ISN'T HERE?
GOOD GRIEF.
HAH?
HEY, STUDD.
HE WANTS TO REGISTER.

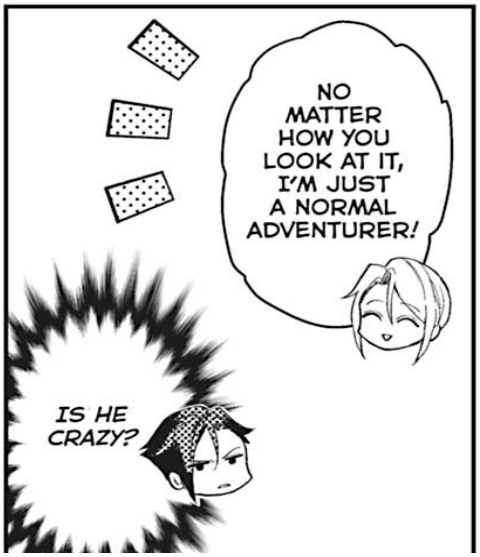

YOU'RE WORKING TOGETHER AND YET YOU HAVEN'T TAUGHT HIM ANYTHING, SINGLE STROKE?
HNN?
SINGLE STROKE?
IT'S HIS RIDICULOUS NICKNAME.

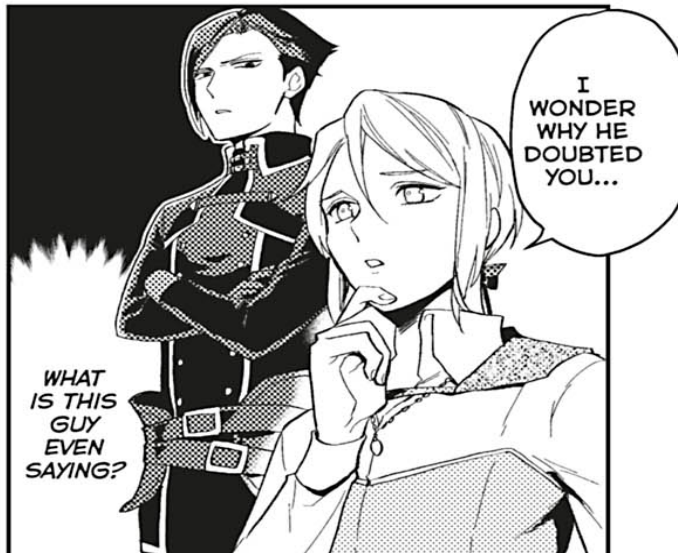

LISTEN UP.
THE GUILD HAS THE RIGHT TO REFUSE INTERVENTIONS FROM THE GOVERNMENT.
WE ALSO RESERVE THE RIGHT TO REFUSE TO REGISTER NOBLEMEN, KNIGHTS, AND OTHER TITLED INDIVIDUALS AS ADVENTURERS.


YOU'VE GOT IT ALL WRONG.
SMILE
SMILE
I SEE.
?
THIS GUY AIN'T A NOBLEMAN.
I DON'T BELIEVE YOU.
I'M NOT LYING.


はぁ…
SIGH


CLATTER
ガタッ
IN THAT CASE, PLEASE WAIT.
I'LL BRING THE TOOLS NECESSARY FOR REGIS-TRATION.

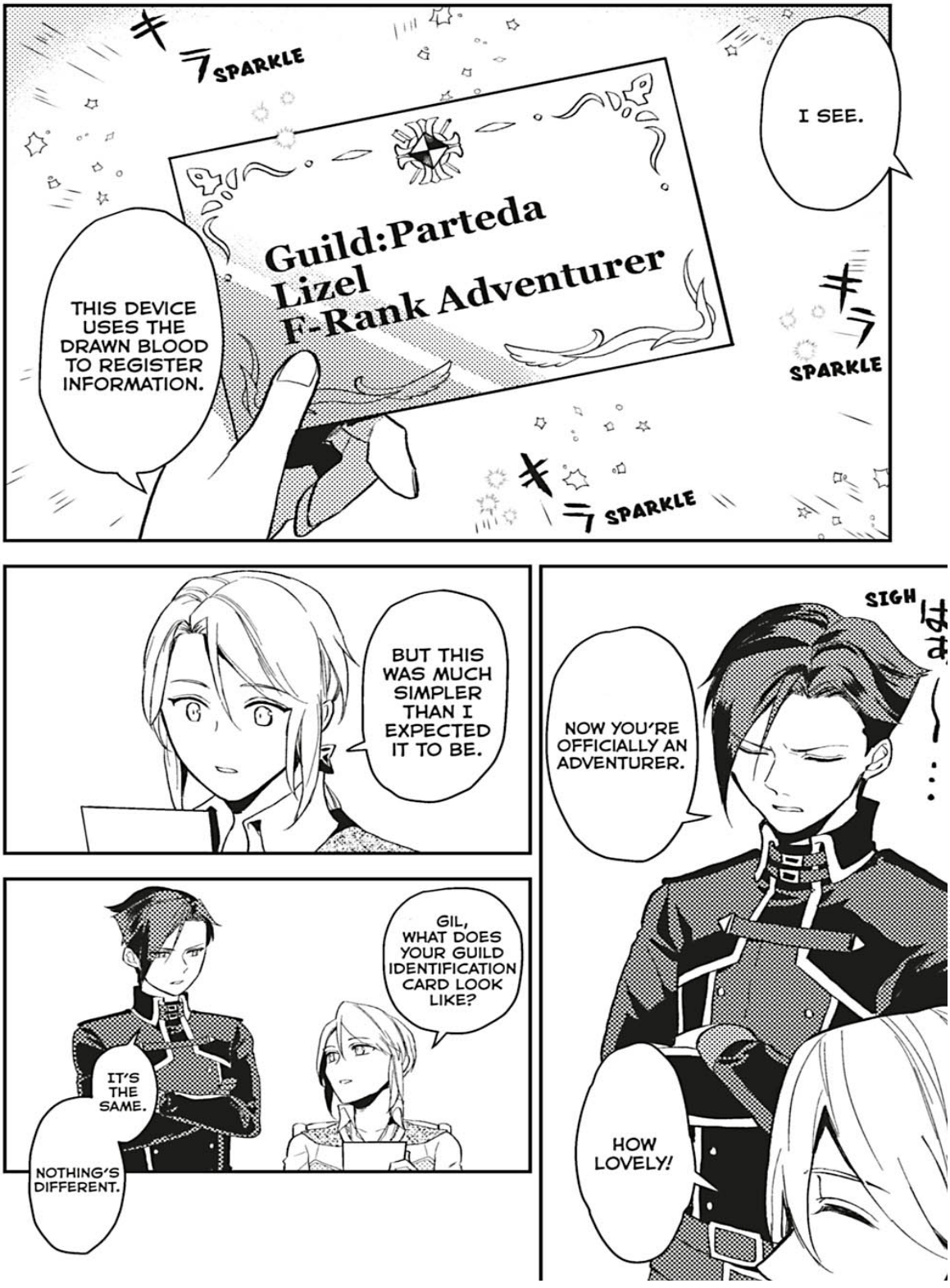

NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT IT, I'M JUST A NORMAL ADVENTURER!
IS HE CRAZY?


I WONDER WHY HE DOUBTED YOU...
WHAT IS THIS GUY EVEN SAYING?


WHAT IS THIS?
IT'S A MAGICAL TOOL USED IN THE GUILD'S IDENTIFICATION PROCESS.
PLEASE PRESS YOUR FINGER AGAINST THE TIP.
THANK YOU FOR WAITING.
I'LL BEGIN YOUR REGIS-TRATION.
YOU WILL BLEED AND IT MAY BE PAINFUL.
THE ACT MIGHT FRIGHTEN YOU, BUT–
I UNDER-STAND.
TAP


PRESS
PRESS
SLICE
!


ポチャ
DRIP
SLIDE
ツー
FLASH


SPARKLE
Guild:Parteda
Lizel
F-Rank Adventurer
I SEE.
THIS DEVICE USES THE DRAWN BLOOD TO REGISTER INFORMATION.
SPARKLE
SPARKLE
BUT THIS WAS MUCH SIMPLER THAN I EXPECTED IT TO BE.
SIGH
NOW YOU'RE OFFICIALLY AN ADVENTURER.
GIL, WHAT DOES YOUR GUILD IDENTIFICATION CARD LOOK LIKE?
IT'S THE SAME.
NOTHING'S DIFFERENT.
HOW LOVELY!


NOT MANY PEOPLE PIERCE THEMSELVES SO THOROUGHLY.
PLEASE USE THIS CLOTH.
LIFT
DRIP
DRIP
MORE IMPOR-TANTLY,
HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO STAB YOURSELF FOR?
OH, I CAN STOP NOW?
IT'S JUST A SMALL CUT.
IT'LL BE FINE WITH A SINGLE LICK.


YANK
グイッ


YANK
WRAP
WRAP
THIS COMPLETES YOUR GUILD IDENTIFICATION CARD REGISTRATION.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPER-ATION.
THANK YOU.
YOU'RE SURPRIS-INGLY DILIGENT, GIL.
TCH.
AND YOU'RE SURPRISINGLY CARELESS AT TIMES.


THE GUILD HAS ENCYCLOPEDIAS AVAILABLE WITH INFORMATION ABOUT THE MONSTERS AND PLANTS OFTEN SEEN IN REQUESTS.
IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, FEEL FREE TO USE THEM AS REFERENCES OR ASK SOMEONE AT THE GUILD'S RECEPTION DESK.
NEXT...
I'LL EXPLAIN REQUESTS.
IF YOU'RE ONLY USING IT FOR REFERENCE, THERE'S NO NEED TO PAY A FEE.
COULD YOU PLEASE SELL ME THIS ENCYCLOPEDIA?
THAT IS A NICE HOBBY, BUT...
REFERENCE MATERIALS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO BE TAKEN OUT OF THE GUILD.
IT'S MY HOBBY...
TO COLLECT INFORMATION.


A BOOK-STORE!
ガタッ
CLATTER
UGH...
HIS EYES ARE PRAC-TICALLY SPARKLING.
I SEE...
しゅん…
SLUMP
IF YOU WANT A BOOK, YOU SHOULD JUST GO TO A BOOKSTORE.
THERE ARE A COUPLE IN TOWN.
STUDD...
EXCUSE ME, BUT CAN WE SAVE YOUR EXPLANATION FOR ANOTHER TIME?
I'D LIKE TO GO TO THE BOOKSTORE RIGHT AWAY.
I DO NOT MIND.
PLEASE COME BACK WHEN YOU HAVE THE TIME.



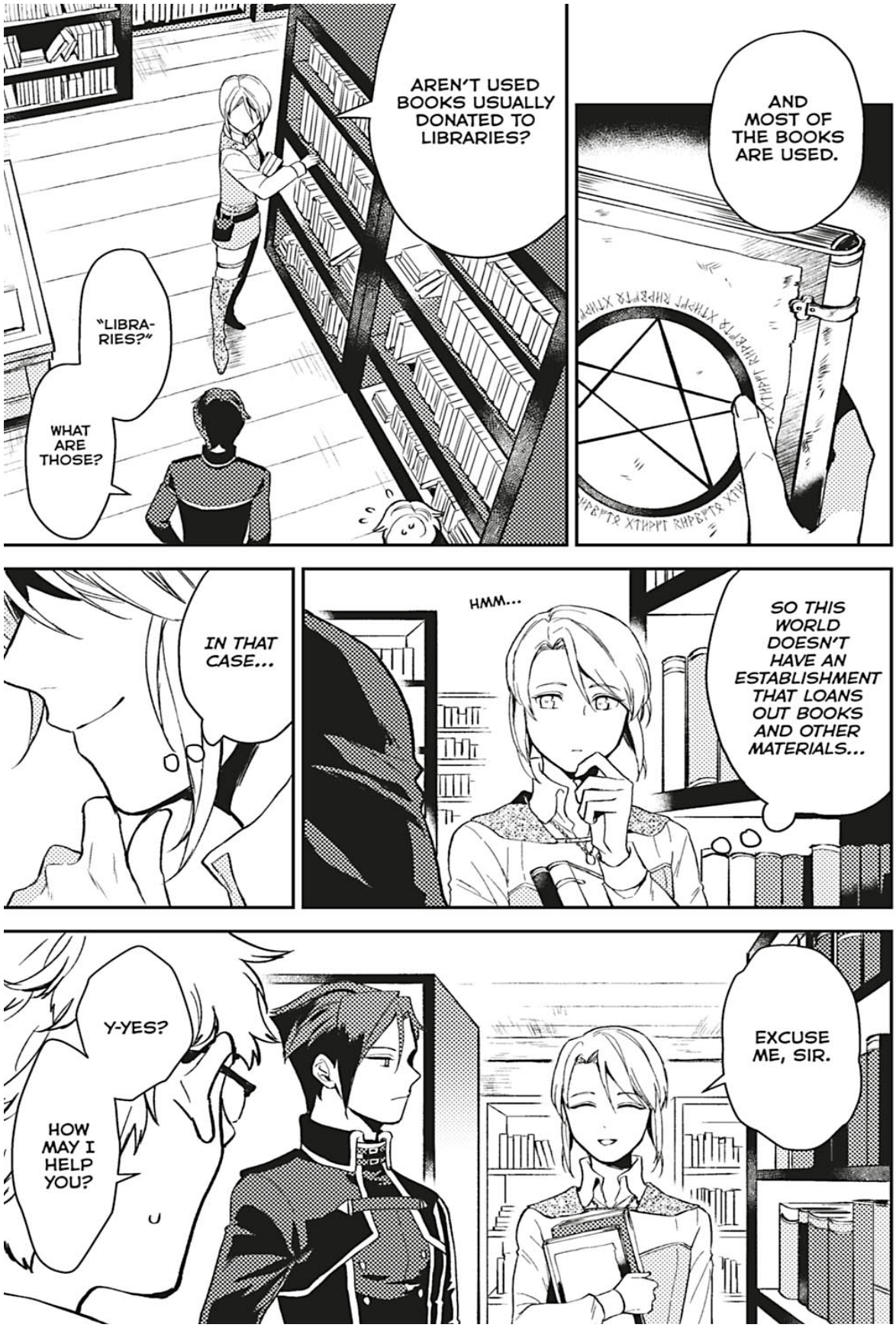

PLEASE TEACH ME IF I NEED HELP WITH SOMETHING.
YOU'RE A GOOD KID WHO IS PASSIONATE ABOUT HIS WORK.


UNTIL THEN!




RUSTLE
RUSTLE
HEY, HEY...
SIGH
MURMUR
MURMUR
MURMUR
I WOULDN'T DO THAT EVEN IF YOU PAID ME.
IS THAT GUY CRAZY? HE PATTED THE HEAD OF "ABSOLUTE ZERO STUDD."
WHAM
ME EITHER.
GLARE
PLEASE REFRAIN FROM WHISPERING IN THE SHADOWS.
IT'S OFFENSIVE.
EEK!
WE'RE SORRY!


EXCITED
I WONDER WHAT THE BOOKSTORES IN THIS WORLD ARE LIKE!
I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE THEM!
EXCITED
HMM...
IT'S A BIT SMALLER THAN I WAS EXPECTING.
FLUSTER
FLUSTER


AREN'T USED BOOKS USUALLY DONATED TO LIBRARIES?
"LIBRARIES?"
WHAT ARE THOSE?
AND MOST OF THE BOOKS ARE USED.
IN THAT CASE...
HMM...
SO THIS WORLD DOESN'T HAVE AN ESTABLISHMENT THAT LOANS OUT BOOKS AND OTHER MATERIALS...
Y-YES?
HOW MAY I HELP YOU?
EXCUSE ME, SIR.


I'D LIKE TO BUY ALL OF THE BOOKS HERE.
WH-WHAT?!
HEY, CUT IT OUT.

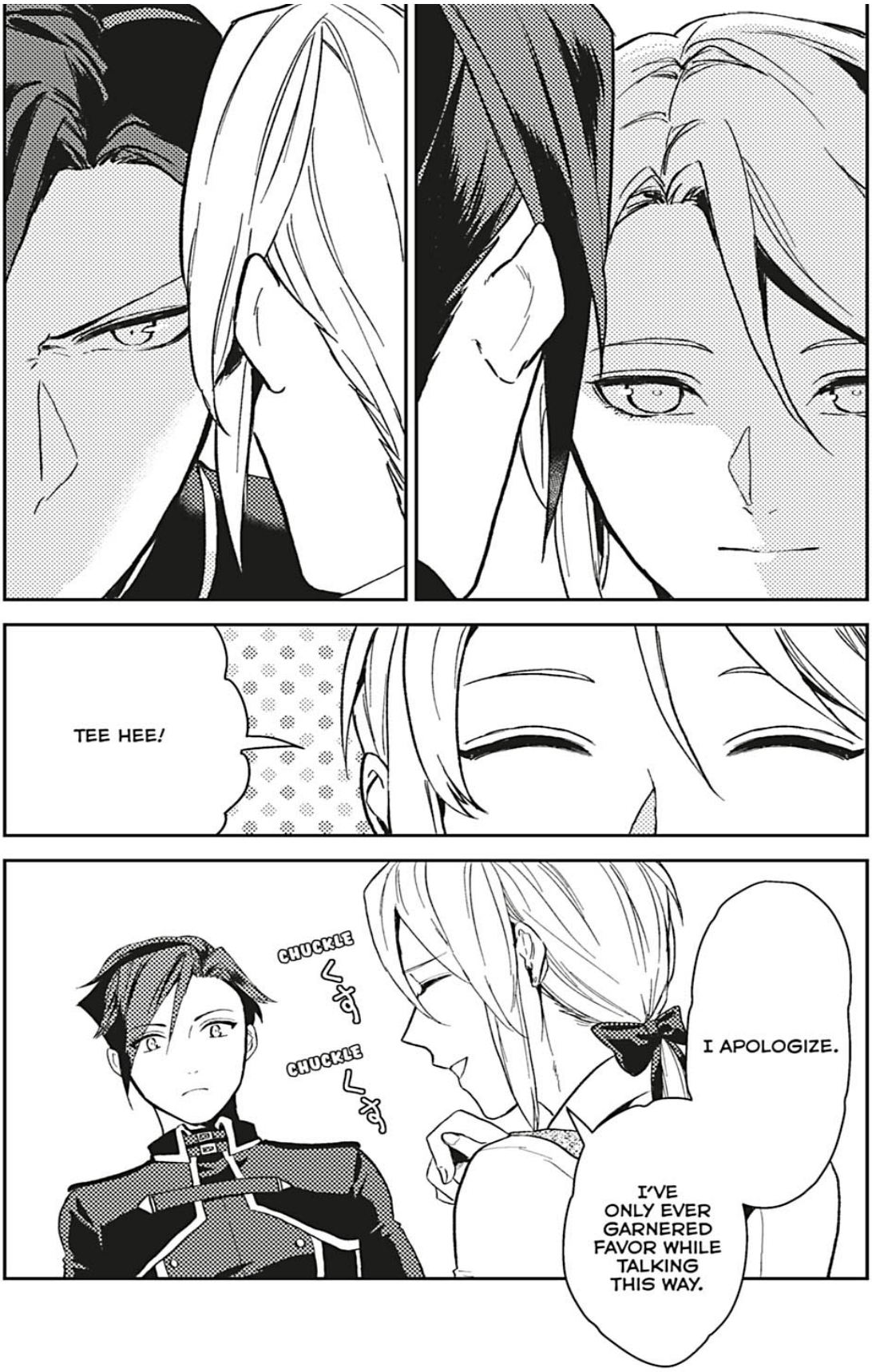

WHY, GIL?
WHY DO YOU EVEN HAVE TO ASK?
JUST WHAT ARE YOU THINKING?


I'LL BRING THE BOOKS I'VE READ BACK HERE SO YOU CAN SELL THEM TO OTHER CUSTOMERS.
THEY'RE USED BOOKS, SO THAT SHOULDN'T BE A PROBLEM.
IT'S SIMPLE.
BEING ABLE TO TAKE OUT A BOOK WHENEVER I LIKE IS CONVENIENT, IS IT NOT?
I JUST THOUGHT IT WOULD BE BEST TO PAY FOR ALL OF THE BOOKS UP FRONT.
I DON'T GET THE WAY THIS GUY THINKS...
BARTERING? YOU REALLY THINK SO?
I'VE NEVER DONE THAT BEFORE.
FLUSTER
FLUSTER
YOU SHOULD AT LEAST BARTER.
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU'RE ACTUALLY GOING TO READ ALL OF THEM.

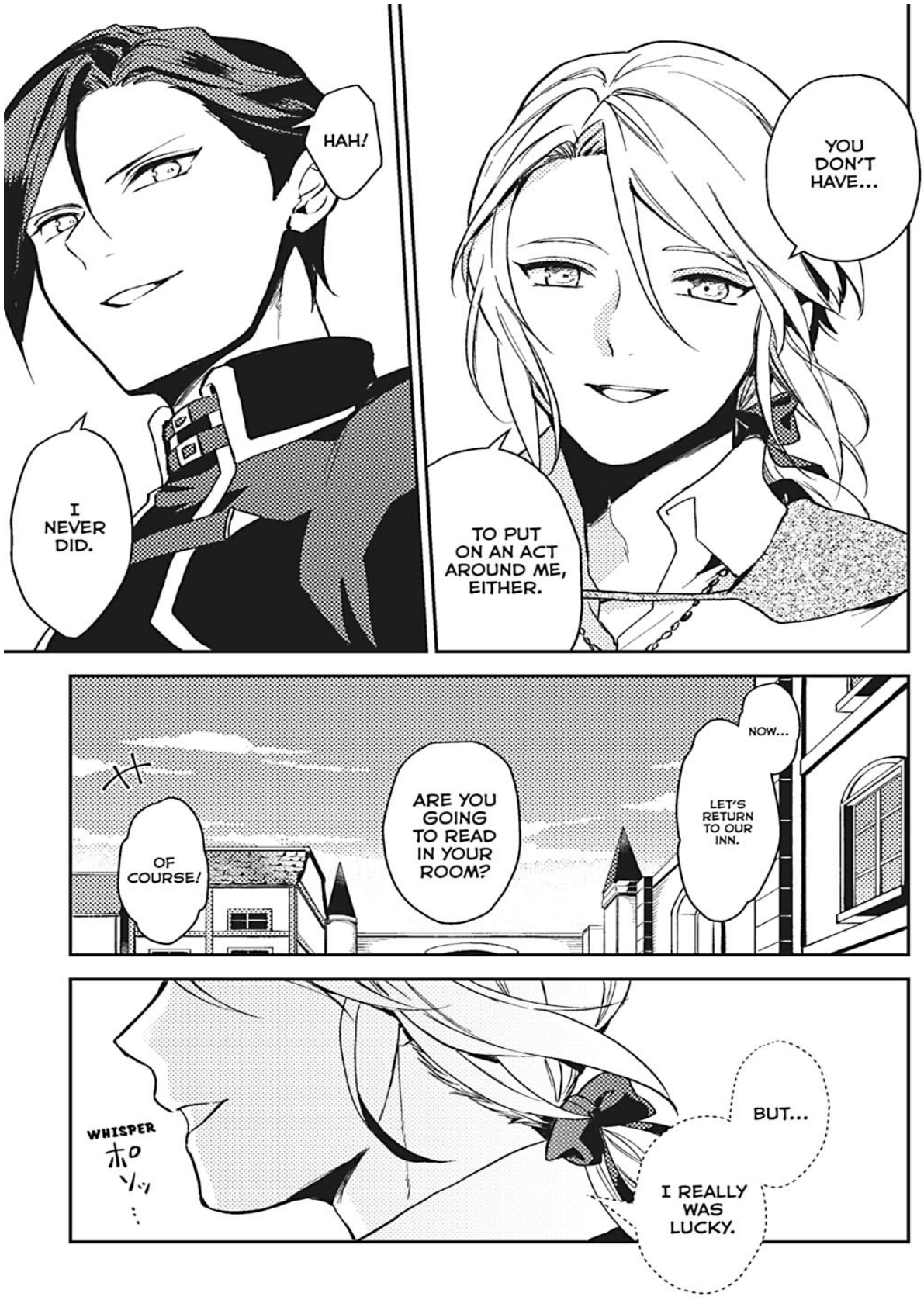

HE SOLD THEM TO ME FOR SO LITTLE!
WHAT A KIND STORE OWNER.
IT'S BECAUSE HE'S UP AGAINST YOU.
HEE!
THANK YOU, GIL.
...
STOP...
TURN
THE TIME WE SPENT TOGETHER TODAY WAS WORTH-WHILE.
I WAS LUCKY TO BE ABLE TO HIRE YOU.


...TALKING LIKE THAT, RIGHT NOW.


THAT'S NOT YOUR USUAL MANNER OF SPEAKING, RIGHT?
SO CHEERFUL AND POLITE...
MY SIXTH SENSE IS TELLING ME YOU'RE FAKING IT.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
IF YOU'RE DOING IT TO BE CONSIDERATE...
THEN STOP.
IT'S UNPLEAS-ANT.

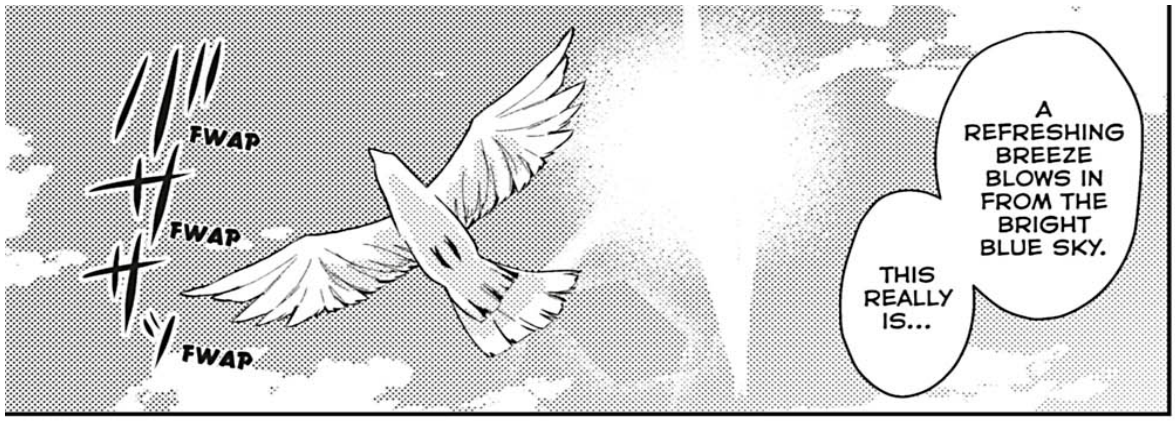

TEE HEE!
CHUCKLE
CHUCKLE
I APOLOGIZE.
I'VE ONLY EVER GARNERED FAVOR WHILE TALKING THIS WAY.


I'M SURE.
I'M PROBABLY THE ONLY ONE WHO DOESN'T LIKE IT.
はぁ～…
SIGH
THAT'S NOT TRUE.
ALTHOUGH ONLY TEMPORARY, YOU ARE A WONDERFUL PARTNER.
I'M THE ONE WHO'S BEEN RUDE.
LET'S START OVER...
GIL.

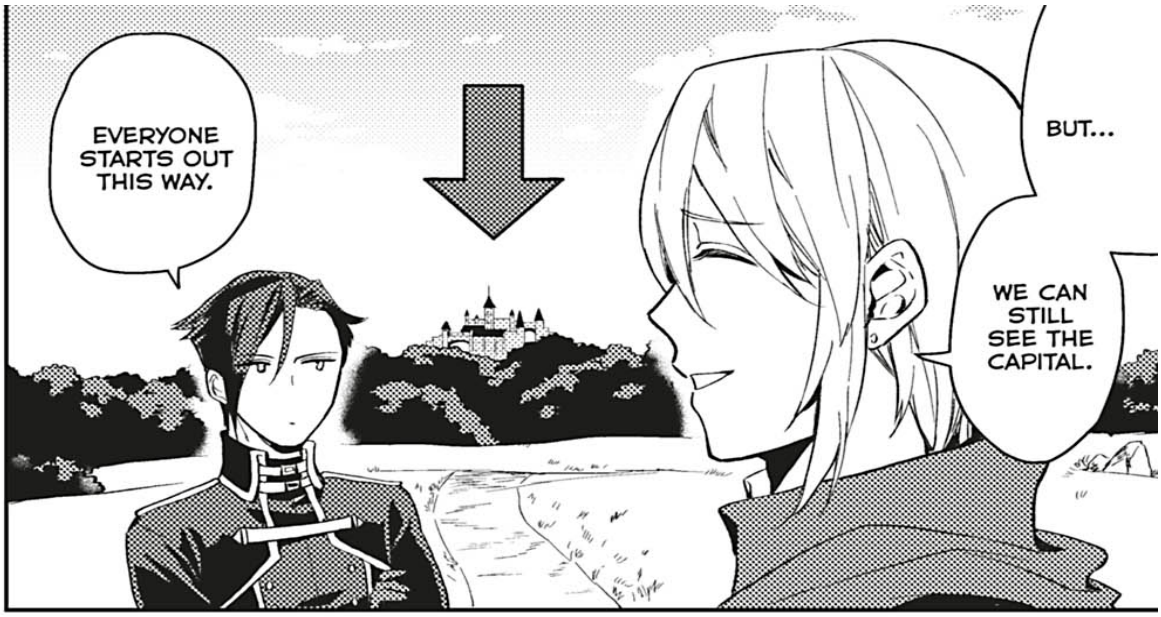

HAH!
I NEVER DID.
YOU DON'T HAVE...
TO PUT ON AN ACT AROUND ME, EITHER.
NOW...
LET'S RETURN TO OUR INN.
ARE YOU GOING TO READ IN YOUR ROOM?
OF COURSE!
BUT...
I REALLY WAS LUCKY.
WHISPER
ホソッ

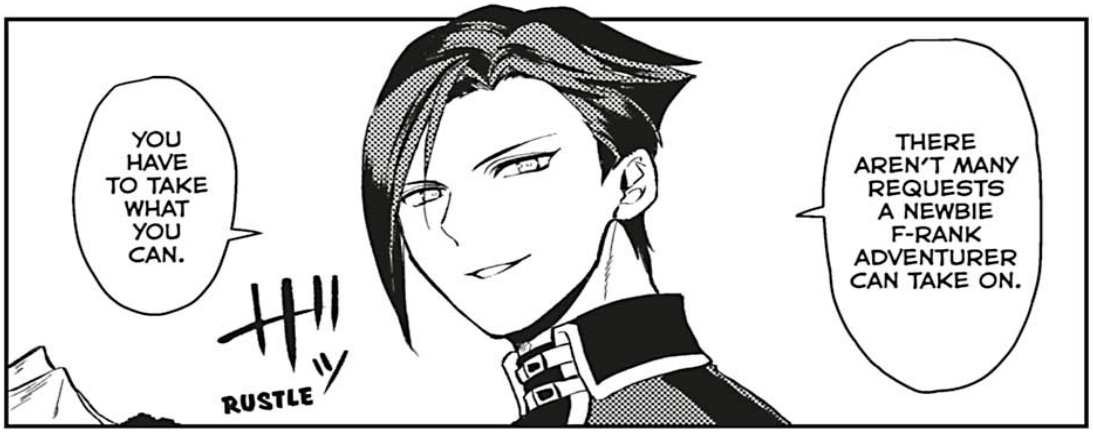

DID YOU SAY SOME-THING?
CRUNCH
NOT AT ALL.
LET'S GO.

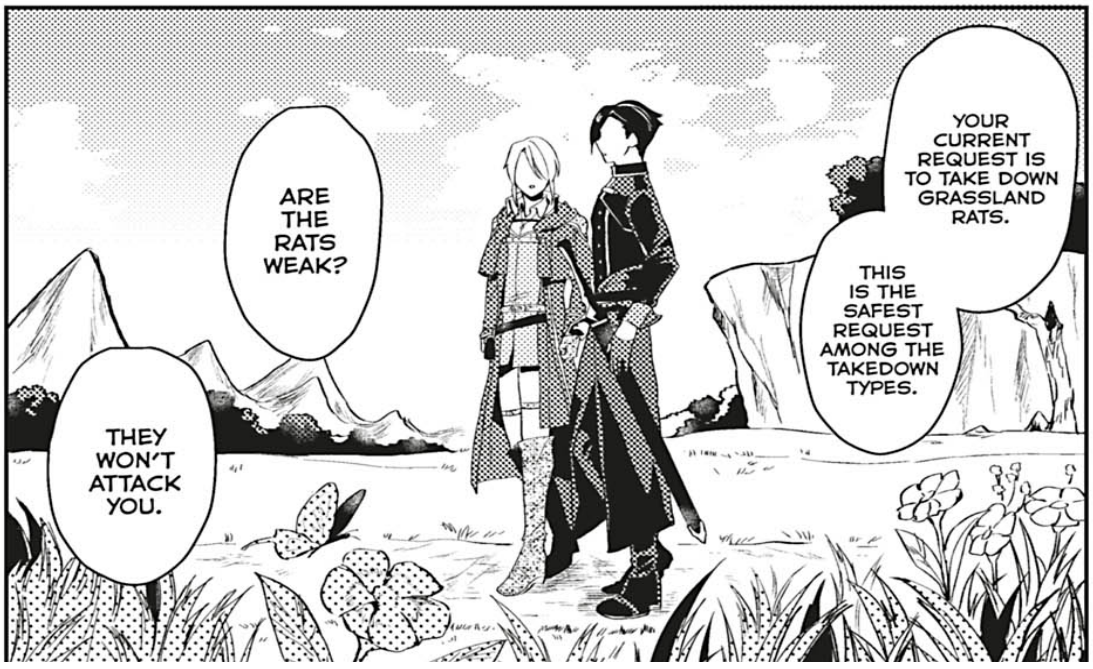

TCH...
THAT DAMN SINGLE STROKE!


FWAP
FWAP
FWAP
A REFRESHING BREEZE BLOWS IN FROM THE BRIGHT BLUE SKY.
THIS REALLY IS...


...THE PERFECT DAY FOR MY ADVENTURER DEBUT!
Chapter 3

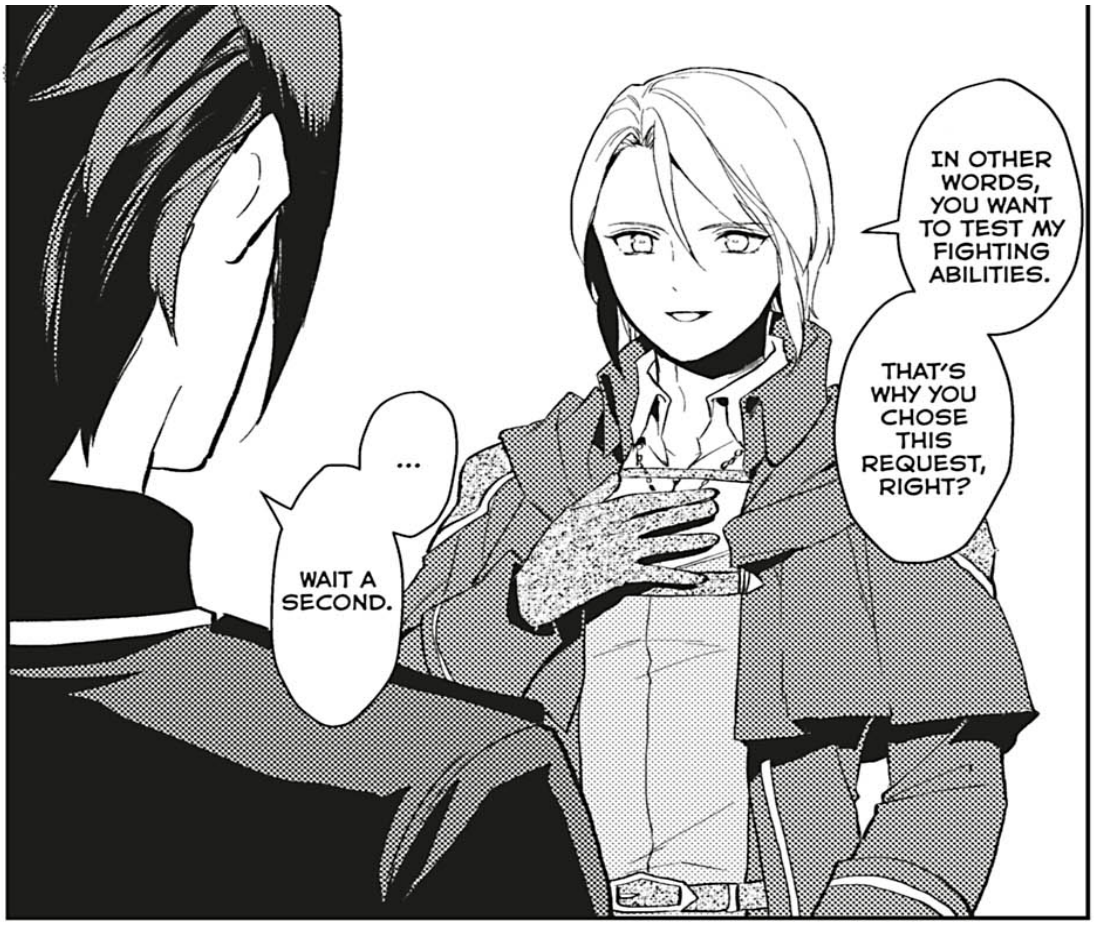

EVERYONE STARTS OUT THIS WAY.
BUT...
WE CAN STILL SEE THE CAPITAL.


YOU HAVE TO TAKE WHAT YOU CAN.
RUSTLE
THERE AREN'T MANY REQUESTS A NEWBIE F-RANK ADVENTURER CAN TAKE ON.


ARE THE RATS WEAK?
THEY WON'T ATTACK YOU.
YOUR CURRENT REQUEST IS TO TAKE DOWN GRASSLAND RATS.
THIS IS THE SAFEST REQUEST AMONG THE TAKEDOWN TYPES.


LOOK.
BUT THEY RUN AWAY WHEN YOU GET CLOSE, SO IT'S NOT EXACTLY EASY.
CRUNCH
CRUNCH
WHICH MEANS IT'S BEST TO BE QUICK AND PRECISE, CORRECT?
SQUEAK
SQUEAK
SQUEAK

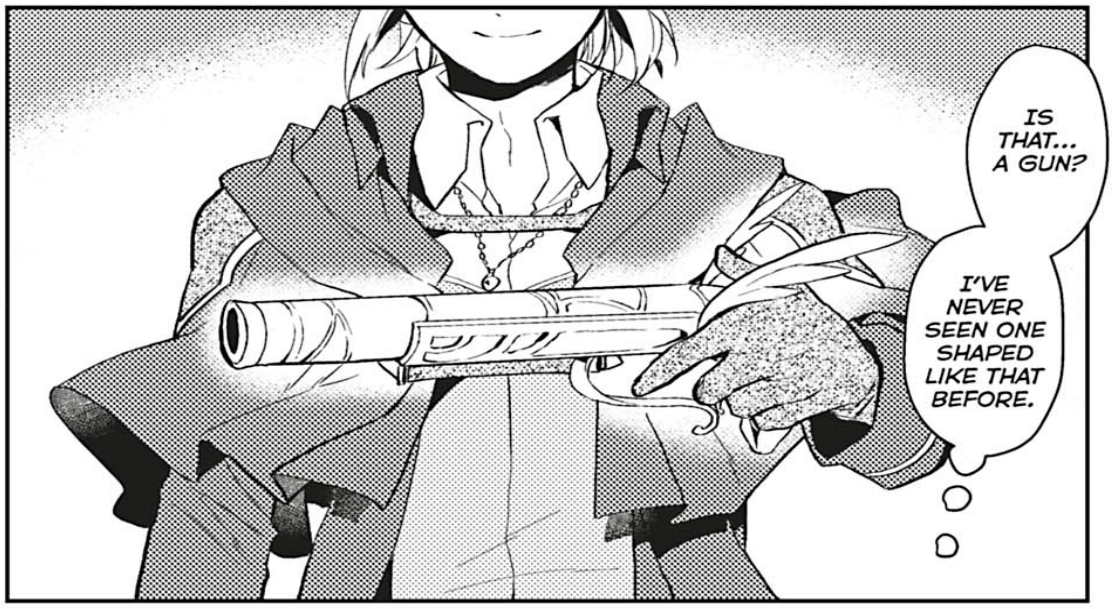

WHAT A LARGE RAT.
TODAY'S GOAL IS FOR YOU...
TO TAKE DOWN TEN OF THEM.
ARE THERE ANY OTHER GOALS...
FOR YOU, GIL?
ADVENTURERS MAKE A LIVING FROM FIGHTING.
EVEN IF YOU'RE JUST AN F-RANK...
IF YOU CAN'T EVEN TAKE DOWN A GRASSLAND RAT, THERE'S NO WAY YOU CAN BE AN ADVENTURER.

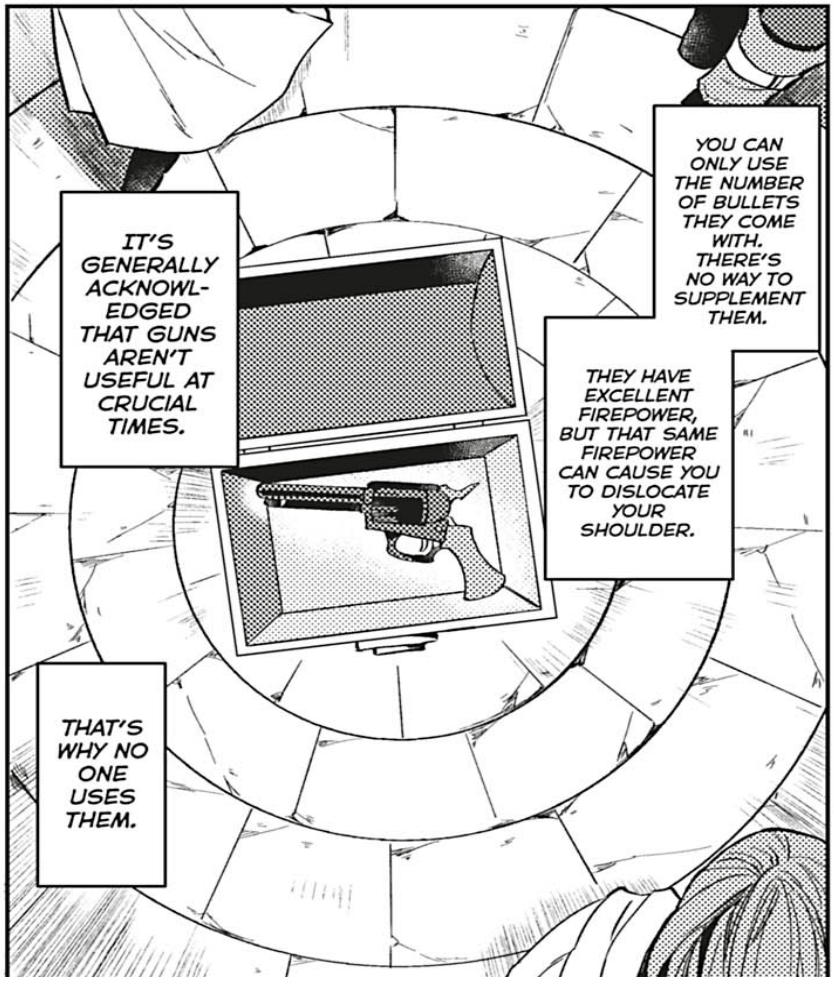

IN OTHER WORDS, YOU WANT TO TEST MY FIGHTING ABILITIES.
THAT'S WHY YOU CHOSE THIS REQUEST, RIGHT?
...
WAIT A SECOND.


NOW THAT I'M AN ADVENTURER...
I HAVE TO START ACTING LIKE ONE!
HE DEFINITELY HAS A SCREW LOOSE...
DID YOU FINALLY LOOSEN UP?
DO YOU LIKE THIS BETTER?


JUST HOW WELL CAN YOU FIGHT?
WHAT-EVER.
YOU WERE RIGHT.
SO...
CLINK
SMILE
ニコッ
I HOPE YOU LIVE UP TO MY EXPECTA-TIONS.


FSSSH
CLINK
!

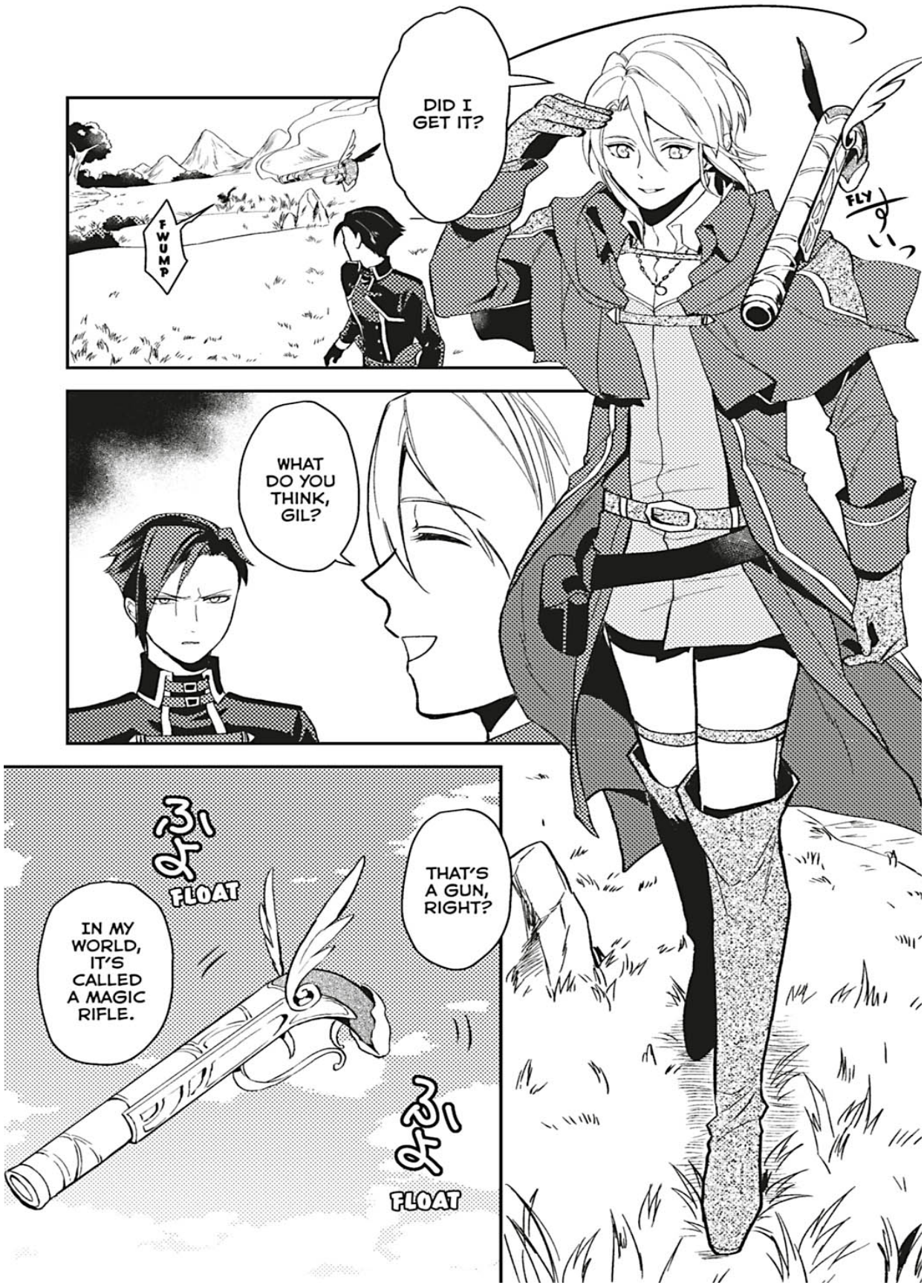

IS THAT... A GUN?
I'VE NEVER SEEN ONE SHAPED LIKE THAT BEFORE.


IT'S GENERALLY ACKNOWL-EDGED THAT GUNS AREN'T USEFUL AT CRUCIAL TIMES.
YOU CAN ONLY USE THE NUMBER OF BULLETS THEY COME WITH. THERE'S NO WAY TO SUPPLEMENT THEM.
THEY HAVE EXCELLENT FIREPOWER, BUT THAT SAME FIREPOWER CAN CAUSE YOU TO DISLOCATE YOUR SHOULDER.
THAT'S WHY NO ONE USES THEM.


AHHH, I GUESS I GOT MY HOPES UP FOR NOTHING.
HMPH
ALTHOUGH GUNS ARE ONLY EVER FOUND IN LABYRINTHS, SO I GUESS THEY'RE PRETTY RARE.


すっ
RISE
EVEN BEING ABLE TO USE MAGIC WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER...
ふよ
FLOAT
ふよ
FLOAT
ふよ
FLOAT
ふよ
FLOAT
...
HUH?!


HERE I GO.
BANG
SQUEAK

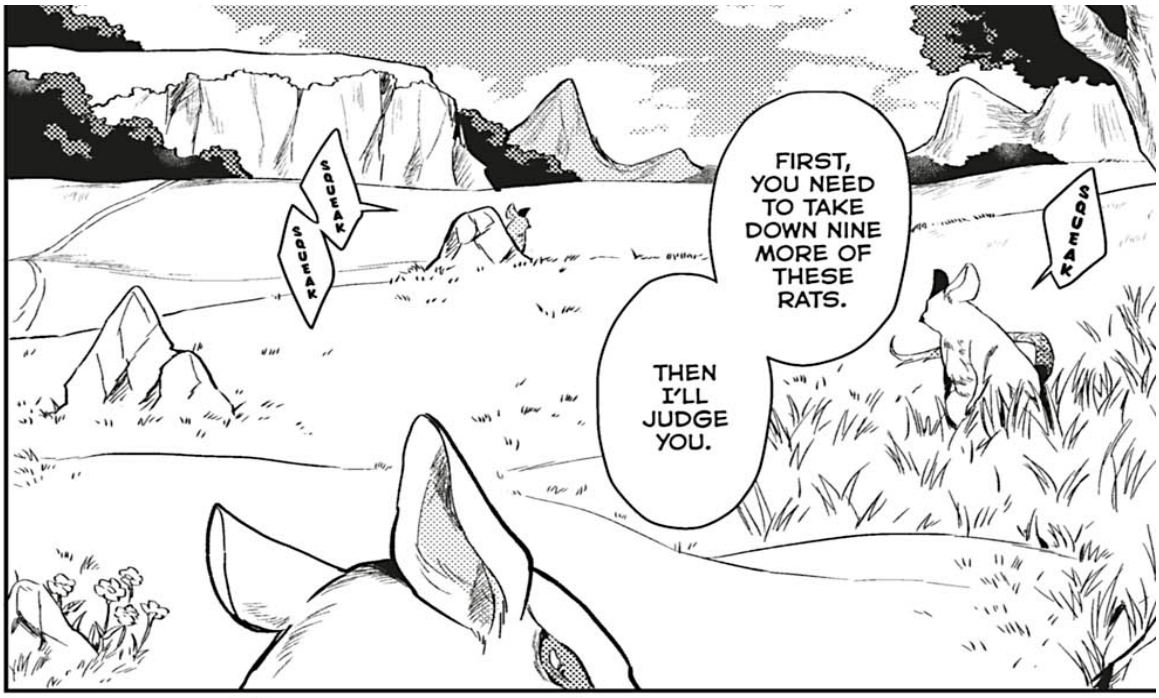

DID I GET IT?
FWUMP
FLY
WHAT DO YOU THINK, GIL?
THAT'S A GUN, RIGHT?
FLOAT
IN MY WORLD, IT'S CALLED A MAGIC RIFLE.
FLOAT

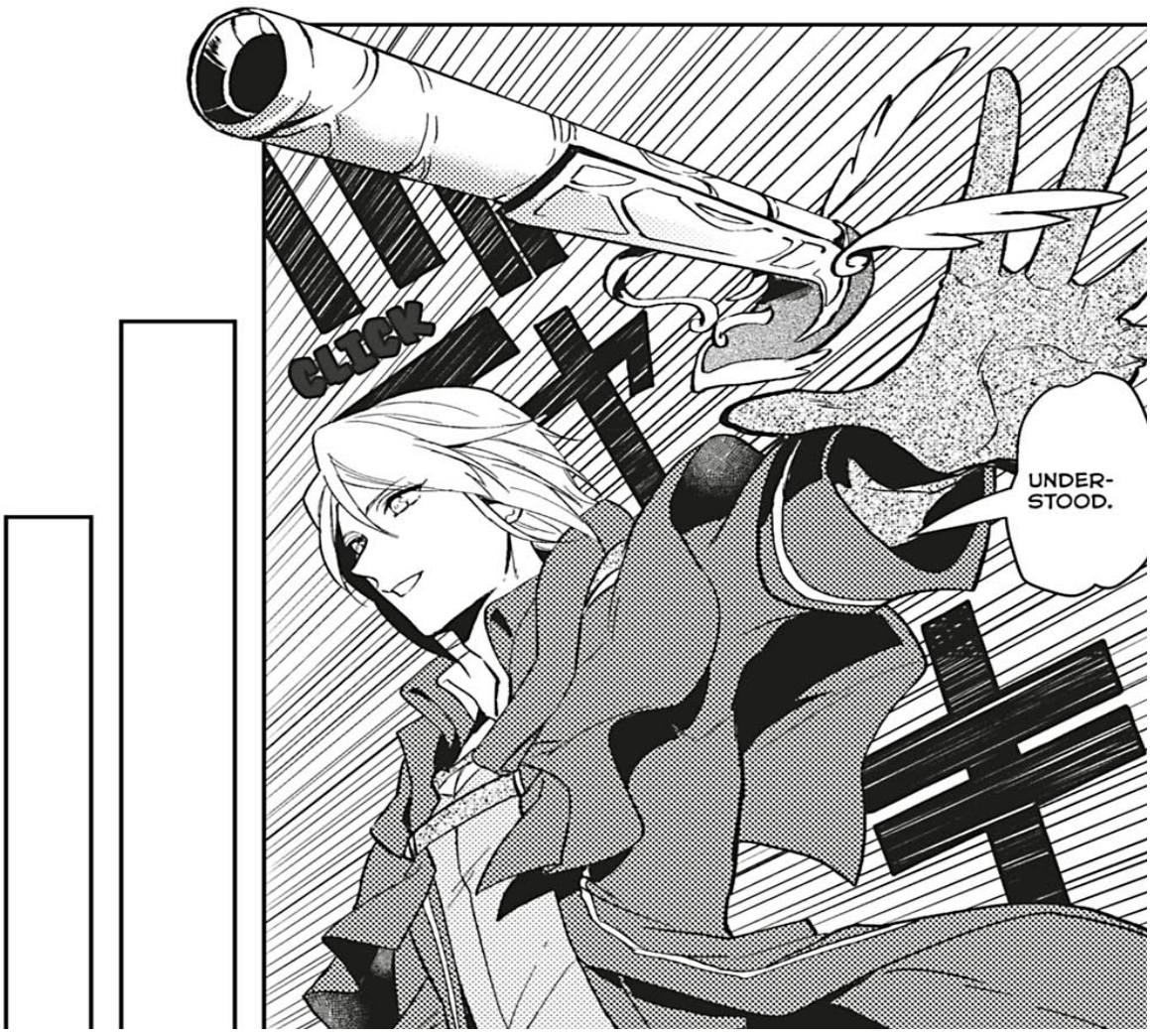

A RIFLE, HUH?
HOW DO YOU CONTROL IT?
WELL, IT REACTS TO MY INTENTIONS.
TWIST
THERE'S ALMOST NO TIME LAG.
IT CAN SHOOT MULTIPLE ROUNDS WITHOUT BEING RELOADED.
FLY
FLY
SINCE IT'S SO SPECIALIZED, YOU CAN PROBABLY USE IT IN BOTH CLOSE AND LONG-RANGE ATTACKS.
YES, I DON'T BELIEVE THAT'D BE A PROBLEM.


THE GUNS IN THIS WORLD SHOOT LEAD BULLETS, RIGHT?
YEAH. SINCE THEY CAN'T BE MADE, THEY'RE SUPER LIMITED.
I SEE.
CLICK
THIS GUN...
BANG
FWAP
FWAP
FWAP
!


...SHOOTS MAGIC BULLETS, AS YOU CAN SEE.
HONESTLY, YOU...

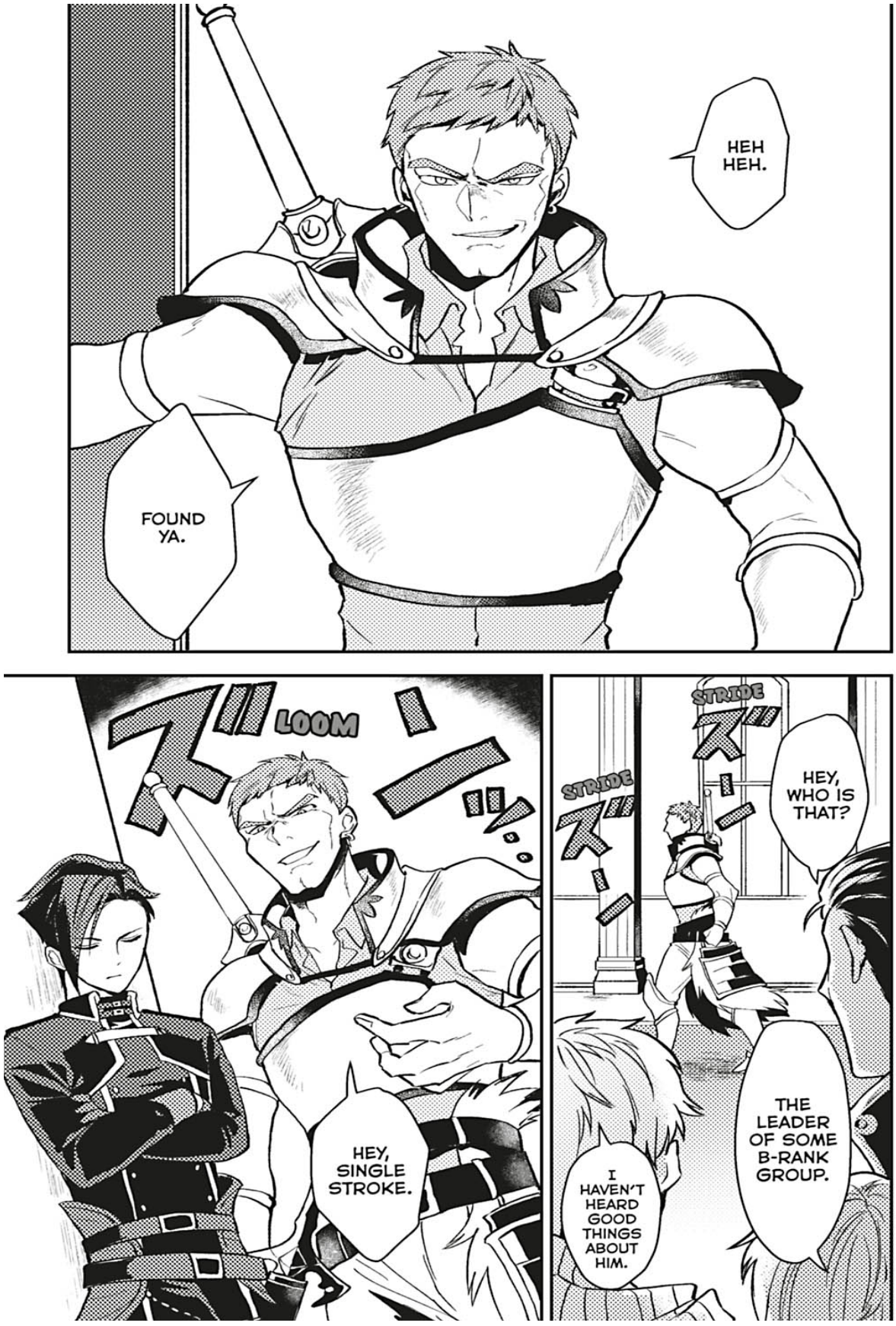

I'M GLAD.
I DON'T SEE A PROBLEM WITH ITS PERFOR-MANCE.
I GET IT. IT'S COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM THE GUNS I KNOW.
RUSTLE
WILL I BE ABLE TO BECOME AN ADVENTURER?
SO...
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
HMM...


SQUEAK
KAMUSA
FIRST, YOU NEED TO TAKE DOWN NINE MORE OF THESE RATS.
KAMUSA
THEN I'LL JUDGE YOU.


CLICK
UNDER-STOOD.

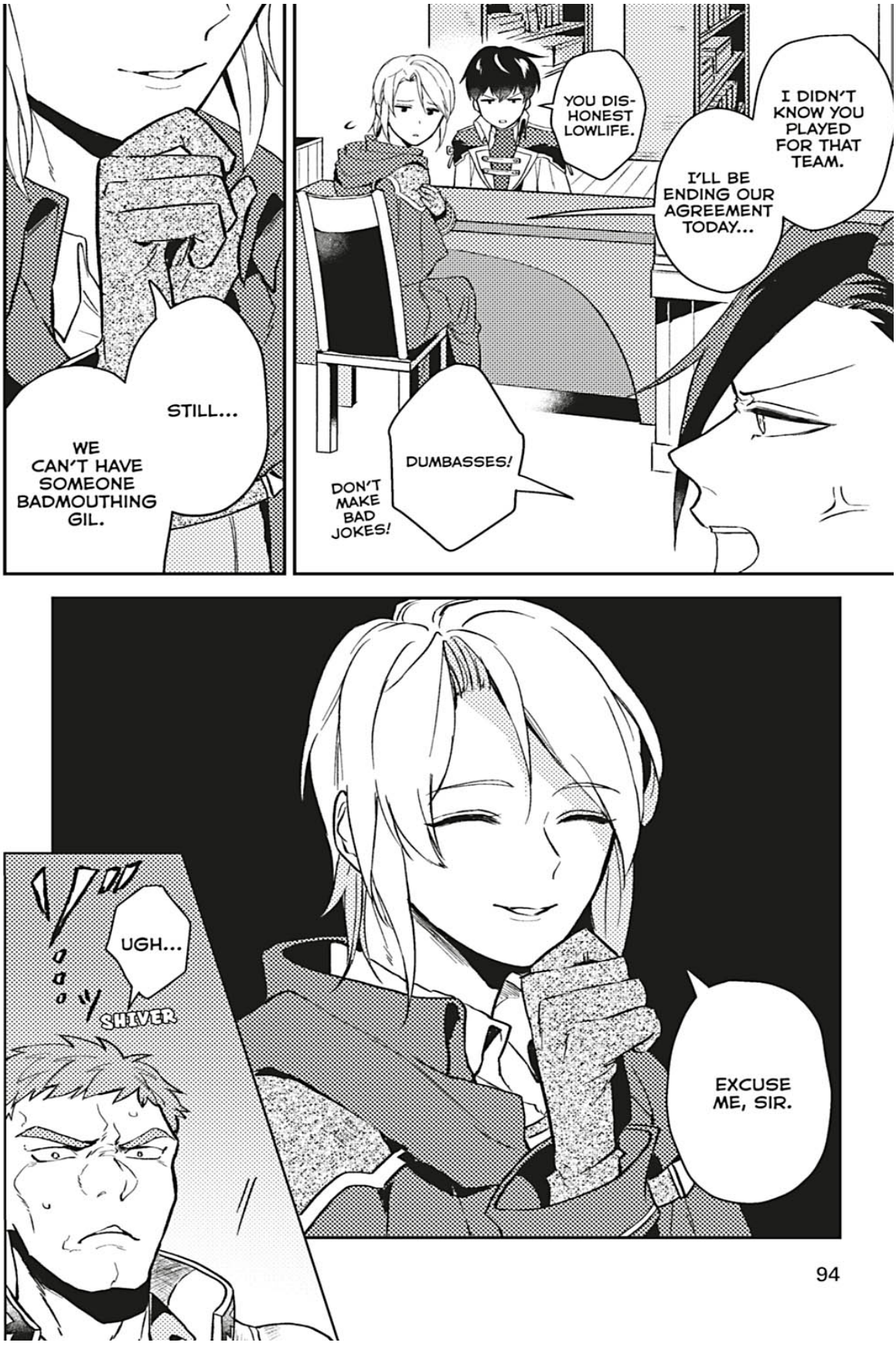

HERE IS YOUR REWARD.
THANK YOU, STUDD.
YOU HAVE COMPLETED THE REQUEST.
I CAN'T WAIT UNTIL I CAN RANK UP.
DOES THE GUILD DECIDE WHEN IT'S TIME FOR THAT TO HAPPEN?
YES, WE DO A REVIEW.
CLAMOR
CLAMOR
...

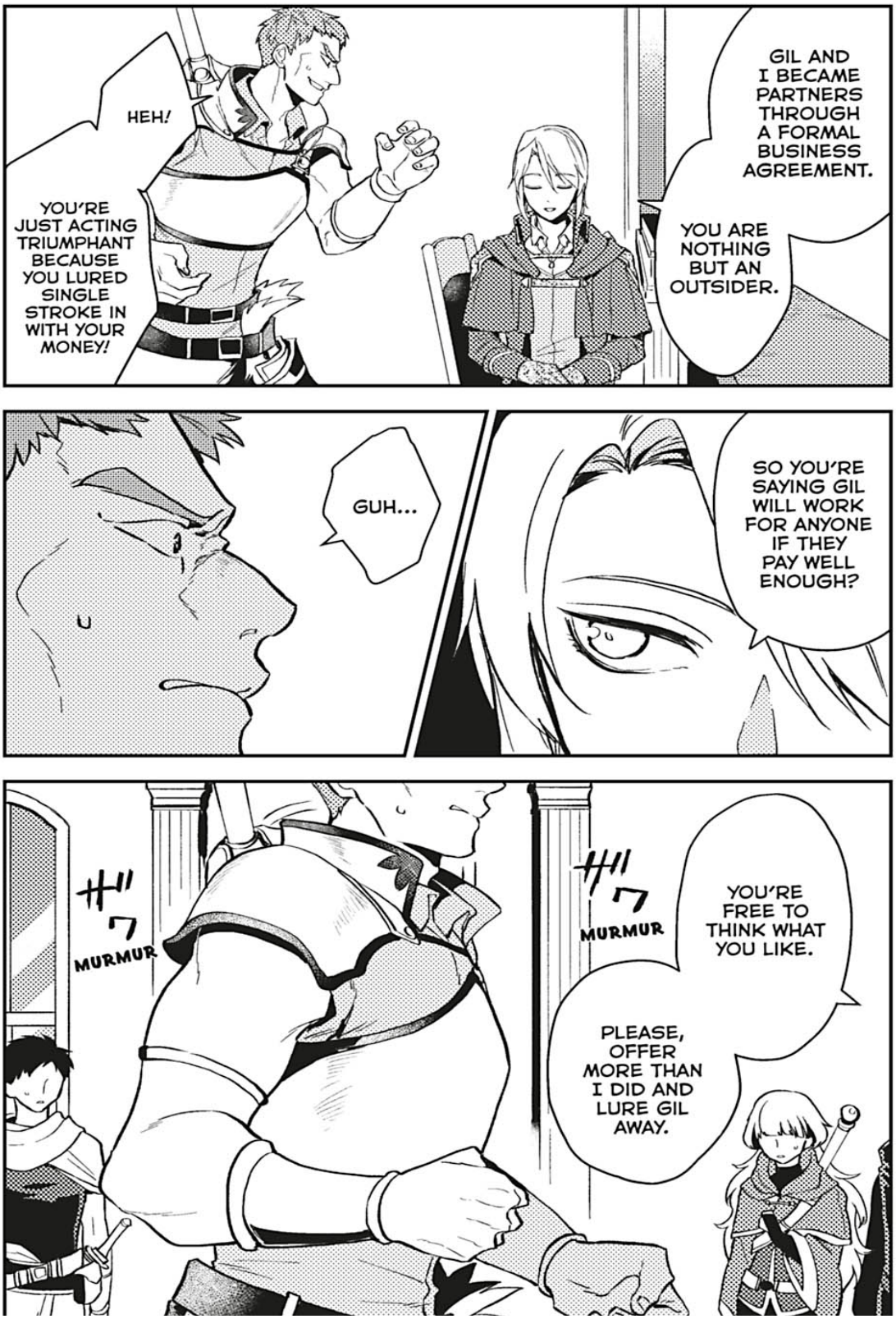

WHISPER
こそっ
I'VE BEEN WONDERING ABOUT SOMETHING...
WHY IS GIL A B-RANK?
HUH?
HE'S SO TALENTED THAT HE'S EVEN BEEN GIVEN THE NICKNAME SINGLE STROKE, CORRECT?
I FEEL LIKE HE COULD BE AN EVEN HIGHER RANK.
AH, THAT IS LIKELY BECAUSE OF–
SLAM


HEH HEH.
FOUND YA.
LOOM
HEY, SINGLE STROKE.
STRIDE
STRIDE
HEY, WHO IS THAT?
THE LEADER OF SOME B-RANK GROUP.
I HAVEN'T HEARD GOOD THINGS ABOUT HIM.


WHY THE HECK D'YA IGNORE MY INVITATION JUST TO PARTNER WITH SOME NOOB?
DID HE BUY YOU OFF WITH A PRETTY PENNY?
SHUT UP.
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?
ARE YOU SAYING YOU ALREADY FORGOT ME?
YUP.
STOP WASTING MY TIME TRYING TO TALK TO ME.


GRIT
HOW DARE YOU LOOK DOWN ON ME?
THAT PRETTY BOY MUST REALLY BE YOUR TYPE, HUH?
TURN
GIL...
MORE THAN YOU, ANYWAY.


I DIDN'T KNOW YOU PLAYED FOR THAT TEAM.
YOU DISHONEST LOWLIFE.
I'LL BE ENDING OUR AGREEMENT TODAY...
DUMBASSES!
DON'T MAKE BAD JOKES!
STILL...
WE CAN'T HAVE SOMEONE BADMOUTHING GIL.
EXCUSE ME, SIR.
UGH...
SHIVER


GIL AND I BECAME PARTNERS THROUGH A FORMAL BUSINESS AGREEMENT.
YOU ARE NOTHING BUT AN OUTSIDER.
HEH!
YOU'RE JUST ACTING TRIUMPHANT BECAUSE YOU LURED SINGLE STROKE IN WITH YOUR MONEY!
SO YOU'RE SAYING GIL WILL WORK FOR ANYONE IF THEY PAY WELL ENOUGH?
GUH...
MURMUR
MURMUR
YOU'RE FREE TO THINK WHAT YOU LIKE.
PLEASE, OFFER MORE THAN I DID AND LURE GIL AWAY.


I AM A B-RANK ADVENTURER...
JUST LIKE HIM!
ALTHOUGH I STILL DON'T THINK HE WOULD GO WITH YOU.
HAH?
CLAP
CLAP
GOOD FOR YOU.
HA... HA HA!
RIGHT?
I HAVE SOCIAL STATUS AND POWER—
HOW-EVER...


IT'S TERRIBLY DISPLEASING TO HAVE SOMETHING OF MINE BEING COMPARED...
TO THE LIKES OF YOU.


CLINK
YOU BASTARD!
カタッ
CLATTER
!
ブル
TREMBLE
ブル
TREMBLE

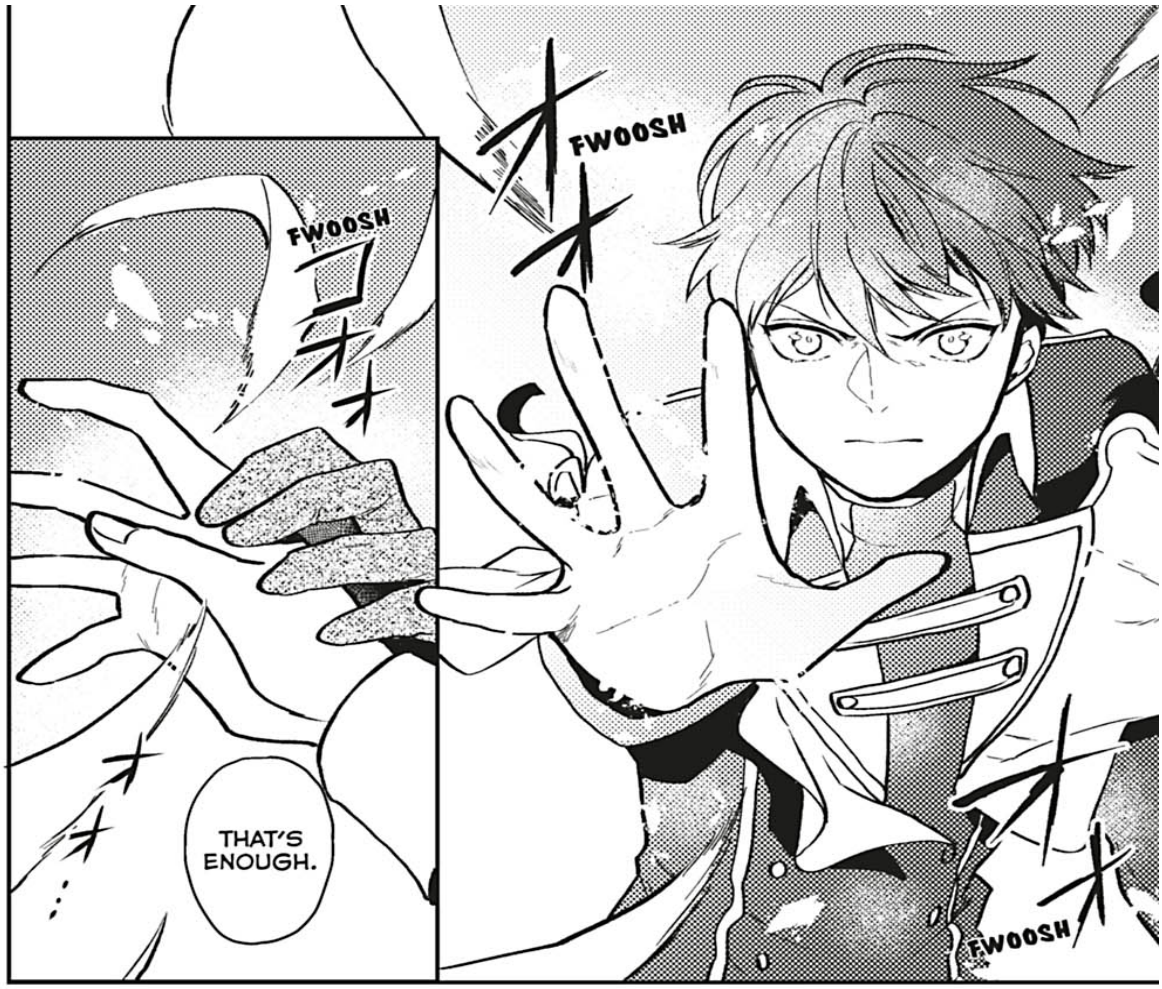

DON'T YOU DARE UNDER-ESTIMATE ME!
LOOM


!
CLANG


GLINT
EEK!
KA-CHING

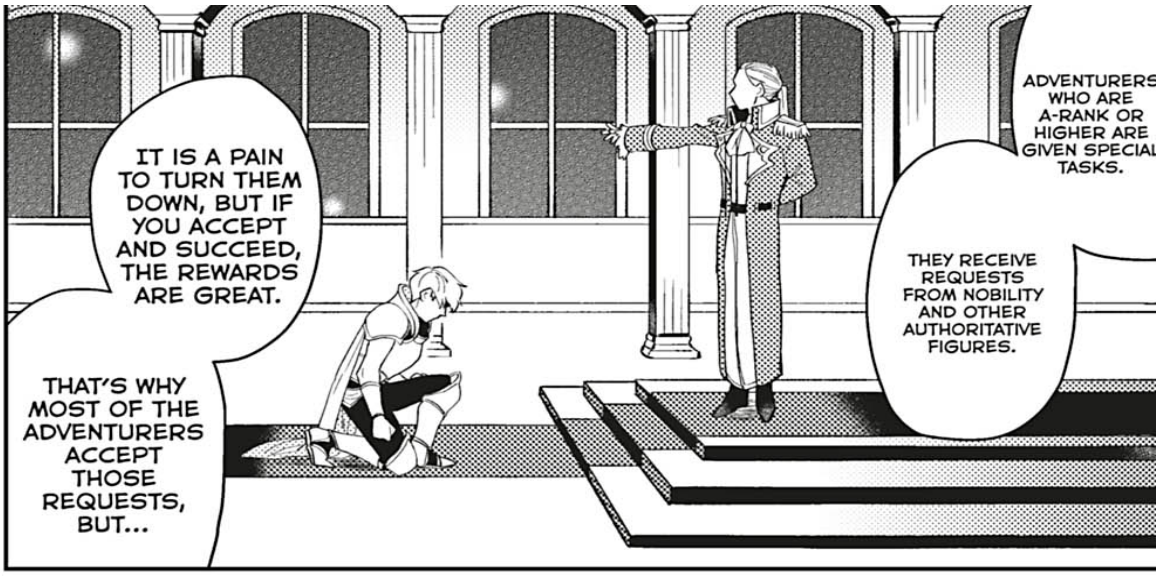

KER-CLANG


GAH!
FWUMP
CLAMOR
H-HEY, WHAT'S GOING ON?
A FIGHT AT THE GUILD?
CLAMOR


FWOOSH
FWOOSH
THAT'S ENOUGH.
FWOOSH


A MEMBER OF THE GUILD'S STAFF SHOULDN'T INTERFERE...
IN A FIGHT BETWEEN ADVENTURERS, CORRECT?


なで PAT
なで PAT
I WAS WORRIED YOU'D BE PUNISHED IF YOU GOT INVOLVED.
LOWER すっ…
SIT すとん
OH, I SEE!
WE DO NOT ARBITRATE WHEN ASKED, BUT THERE IS NO RULE SAYING WE CANNOT.
LIZEL…
ABOUT SINGLE STROKE'S RANK…


ADVENTURERS WHO ARE A-RANK OR HIGHER ARE GIVEN SPECIAL TASKS.
THEY RECEIVE REQUESTS FROM NOBILITY AND OTHER AUTHORITATIVE FIGURES.
IT IS A PAIN TO TURN THEM DOWN, BUT IF YOU ACCEPT AND SUCCEED, THE REWARDS ARE GREAT.
THAT'S WHY MOST OF THE ADVENTURERS ACCEPT THOSE REQUESTS, BUT...


SINGLE STROKE ONLY THINKS OF THIS CHANCE TO EARN SOCIAL STATUS AND FAME AS SOMETHING TROUBLESOME.
AHHH, YOU COMPLETELY BROKE THE DOOR DOWN!
SHUT UP. I'LL PAY FOR IT.
HE DOESN'T CURRY FAVOR WITH OR SERVE OTHERS.
THAT'S JUST WHO HE IS.


...
I SEE.

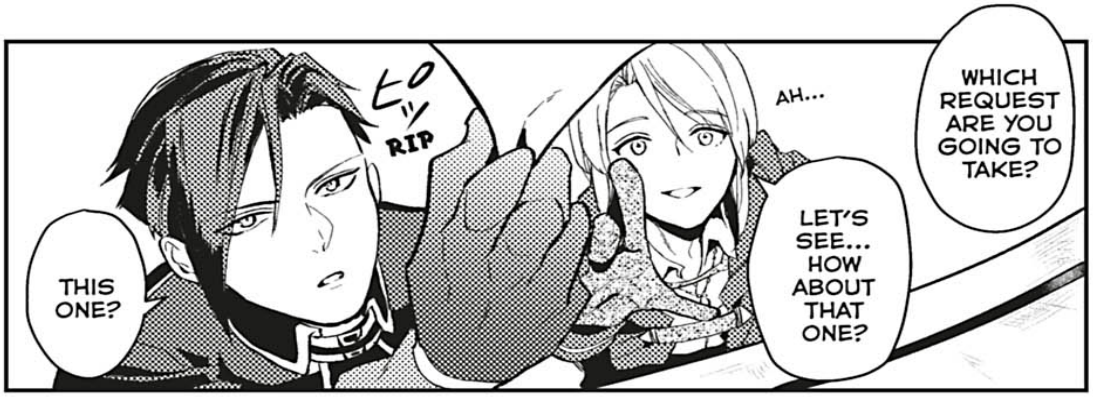

MY BODY MOVED BEFORE I COULD EVEN THINK.
BACK THEN...
HE THINKS I'M HIS...?
HUH.
IT'S TERRIBLY DISPLEASING TO HAVE SOMETHING OF MINE BEING COMPARED...
TO THE LIKES OF YOU.

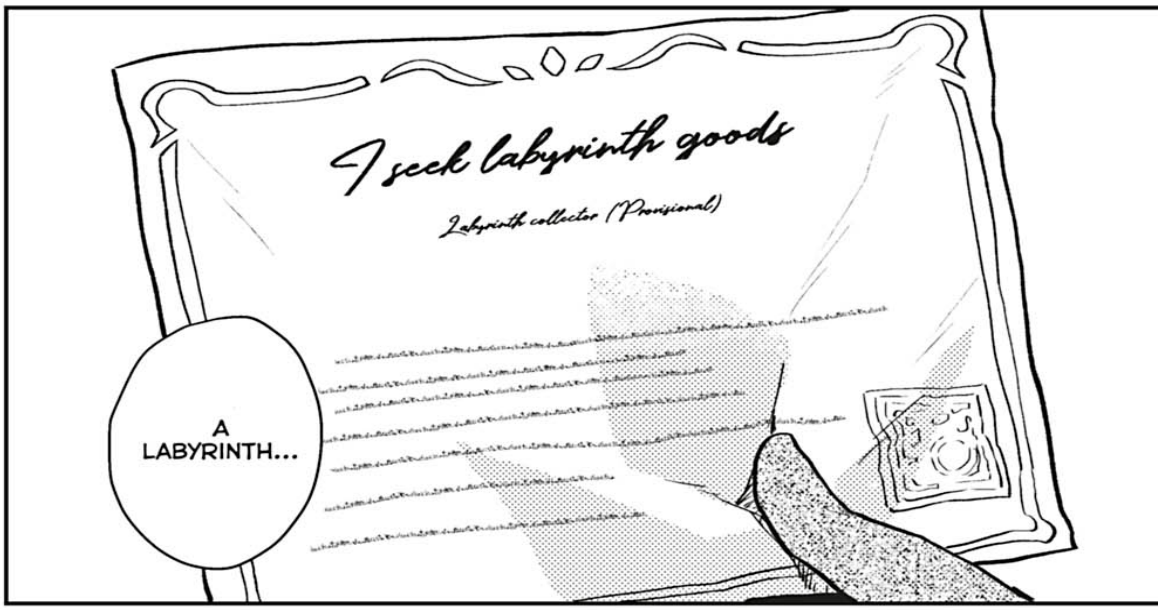

キィ
CREAK
CREAK

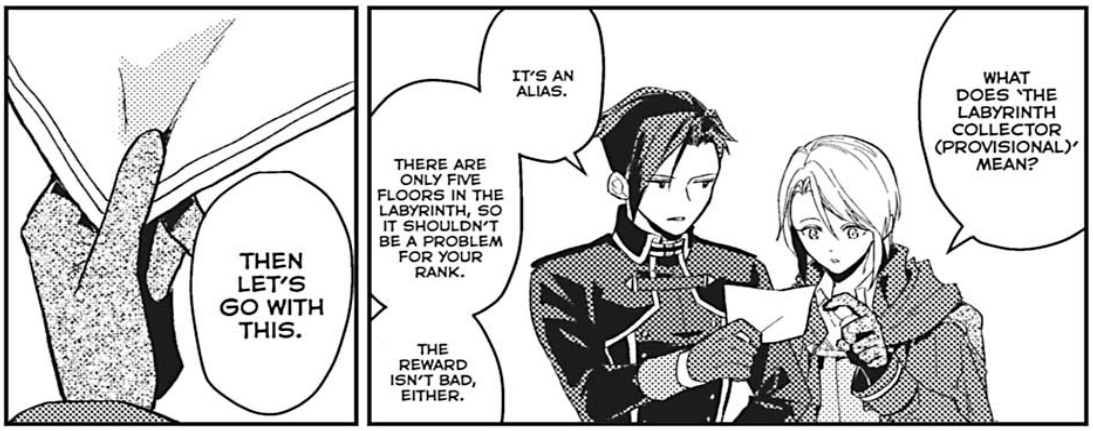

THINKING THAT...
THAT DOESN'T SOUND TOO BAD.
さら STROKE...
ふっ HEH
IT'S NOT LIKE ME AT ALL...

Chapter 4




WHICH REQUEST ARE YOU GOING TO TAKE?
AH...
LET'S SEE... HOW ABOUT THAT ONE?
RIP
THIS ONE?


I seek labyrinth goods
Labyrinth collector (Provisional)
A LABYRINTH...

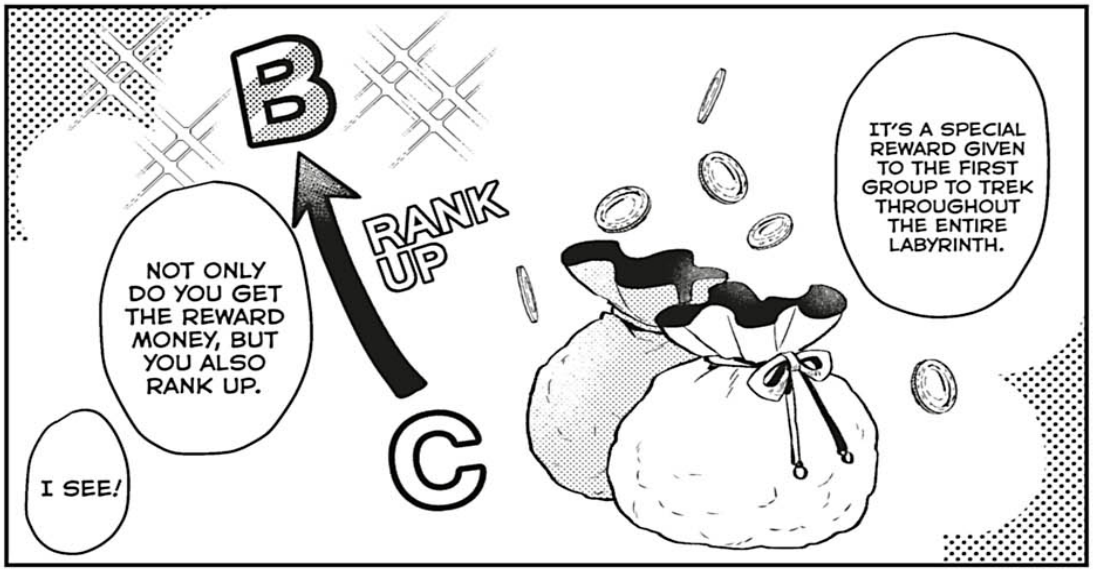

WHAT DOES 'THE LABYRINTH COLLECTOR (PROVISIONAL)' MEAN?
IT'S AN ALIAS.
THERE ARE ONLY FIVE FLOORS IN THE LABYRINTH, SO IT SHOULDN'T BE A PROBLEM FOR YOUR RANK.
THE REWARD ISN'T BAD, EITHER.
THEN LET'S GO WITH THIS.

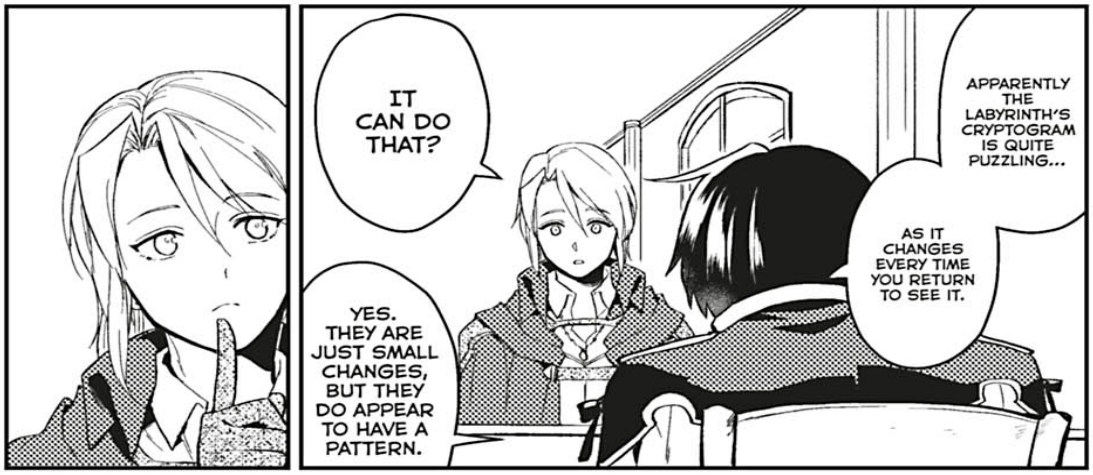

IT'S ALWAYS CROWDED AT THIS TIME.
WELL, YEAH.
THIS IS WHEN THE ADVENTURERS START THEIR DAY.
STILL...
NEXT IN LINE, PLEASE.
カタン
CLATTER


GOOD MORNING, STUDD.
カタッ CLATTER
GOOD MORNING.
WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR?
THERE ARE TREASURE CHESTS THAT APPEAR IN THE LABYRINTH WITH GOODS THAT CAN ONLY BE FOUND THERE. YOU MUST BRING THOSE GOODS BACK.
ALLOW ME...
TO COMPLETE YOUR REQUEST ACCEPTANCE REGISTRY.
RUSTLE
DO YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS?
SO IT CAN BE ANYTHING?
YES.


YOUR GUILD CARD, PLEASE.
Guild:Parteda
Lizel
F-Rank Ad
HERE YOU GO.
THIS CLIENT WILL BE HAPPY WITH ANYTHING...
AS LONG AS IT COMES FROM THE MAZE.
WHAT ARE THE PEOPLE OVER THERE DOING?
THEY ARE ATTEMPTING TO SOLVE THE RIDDLE OF A NEW MAZE THAT WAS FOUND A FEW DAYS AGO.
THAT TABLE HOLDS A COPY OF THE FIRST CRYPTO-GRAM.
BY THE WAY...


ACCOM-
PLISHMENT
AWARD?
THEY MUST
BE AFTER
THE ACCOM-
PLISHMENT
AWARD.


B
RANK
UP
C
NOT ONLY
DO YOU GET
THE REWARD
MONEY, BUT
YOU ALSO
RANK UP.
I SEE!
IT'S A SPECIAL
REWARD GIVEN
TO THE FIRST
GROUP TO TREK
THROUGHOUT
THE ENTIRE
LABYRINTH.

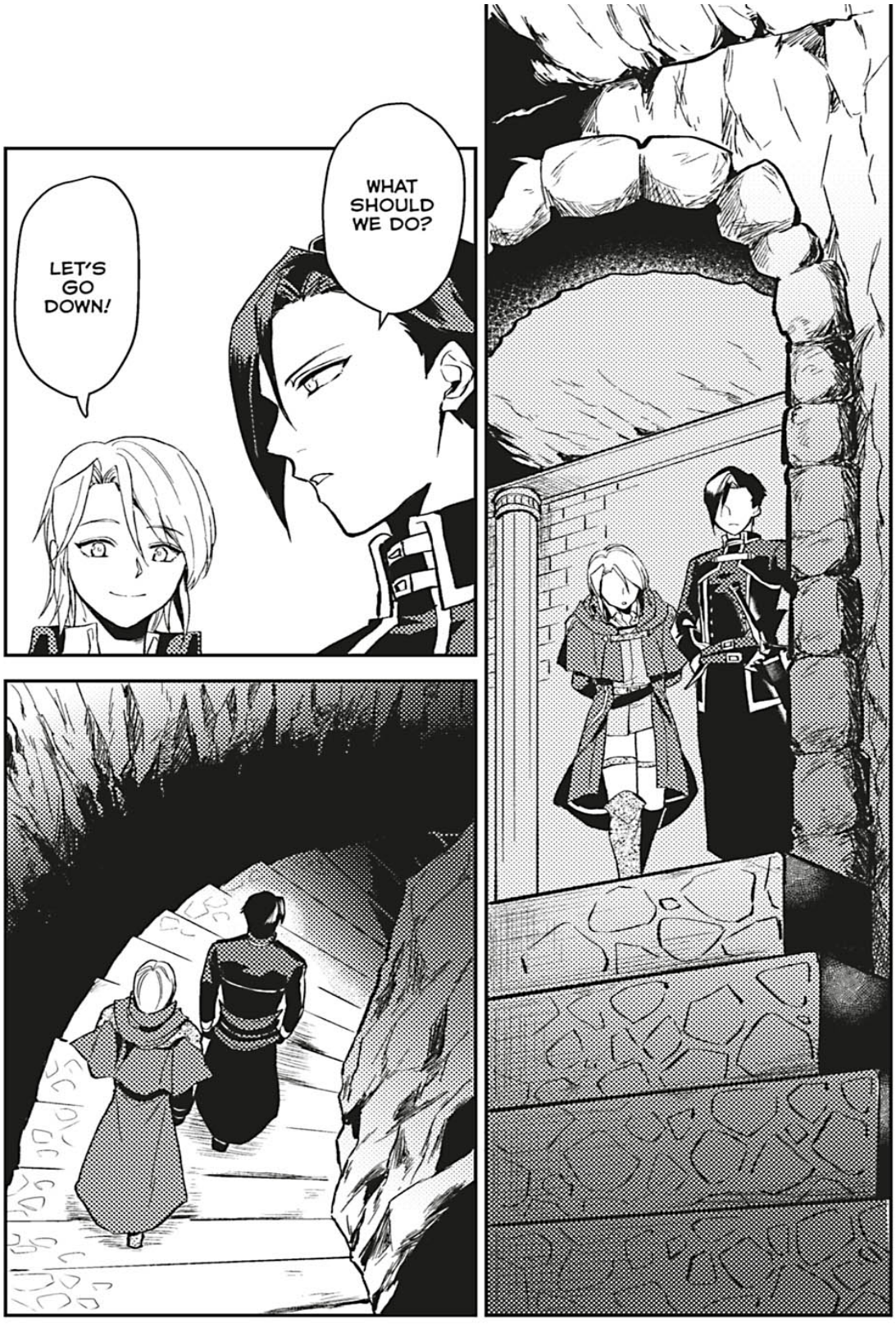

IT
CAN DO
THAT?
YES.
THEY ARE
JUST SMALL
CHANGES,
BUT THEY
DO APPEAR
TO HAVE A
PATTERN.
APPARENTLY
THE
LABYRINTH'S
CRYPTOGRAM
IS QUITE
PUZZLING...
AS IT
CHANGES
EVERY TIME
YOU RETURN
TO SEE IT.


YOUR REGISTRATION HAS BEEN COMPLETED.
Guild:Partcda
Lizel
F-Rank Adventurer
THANK YOU.
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO ABOUT THE NEW LABYRINTH?
WE HAVE OUR OWN LABYRINTH TO CHECK OUT.
BUT THAT CRYPTOGRAM...
HAS CAUGHT MY INTEREST, SO CAN I TAKE A PEEK?
SURE.
EXCUSE ME.


WHAT AN INTERESTING PROBLEM.
IT REALLY MAKES YOU THINK.
FWAP
はっ
...
Y-
YEAH?
I'M SORRY.
I JUST HAPPENED TO SEE YOUR NOTES.
ALL RIGHT.
IF YOU'VE SOLVED IT, LET'S GO.


HEY!
LET'S GO.
SORRY! I'M COMING.
IT'S A LIST OF LETTERS IN AN ANCIENT LANGUAGE.
ニヤつ
WHISPER
A VERY PRETTY ONE, AT THAT.
UM...
WHAT DID HE SAY TO YOU?
DID HE SEE YOUR NOTES AND STEAL YOUR IDEA?
NO...
IT WAS THE OP-POSITE.
...


I DON'T SEE ANY TREASURE CHESTS.
STEP
STEP
THEY APPEAR RANDOMLY.
THIS IS MY FIRST TIME IN A LABYRINTH.
I'M ENJOYING JUST LOOKING AROUND!


WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
LET'S GO DOWN!

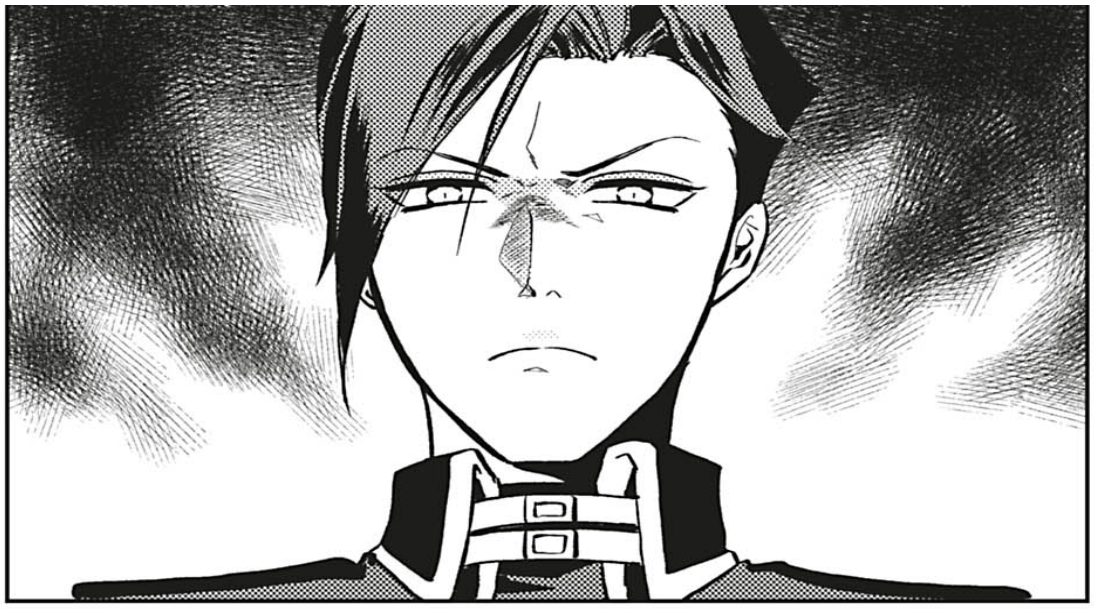

ABOUT EARLIER... YOU'LL JUST CAUSE TROUBLE...
CLACK コツ
IF YOU GET INVOLVED WITH OTHERS.
IT'S FINE.
I CAN DECIDE FOR MYSELF WHETHER OR NOT TO GET INVOLVED.
CLACK コツ
AFTER ALL, I KNOW THAT ANCIENT LANGUAGE WELL.
SHOVE
I WONDER IF THIS WORLD EXISTS IN THE PAST OR PRESENT OF MY OWN...


THWACK
FSHHH
BOINGGG
WHY DID IT REACT TO ME...
BUT NOT YOU?
?
IS THAT THE FIRST THING YOU HAVE TO SAY?


WHAT DO YOU THINK THAT WAS?
WHO KNOWS? IT JUST HAPPENED TO BE PERFECTLY AT THE SAME HEIGHT AS YOUR HEAD.
IT'S INFURIATING HOW CALM YOU ARE.
THAT'S MY ONLY VIRTUE.
OH, APOLO-GIES.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
ポン TOSS
DO YOU OFTEN FIND TWO CHESTS IN THE SAME PLACE?
YOU'RE PROBABLY JUST LUCKY.
I HEARD OF SOMEONE WHO FOUND TEN AT ONCE.

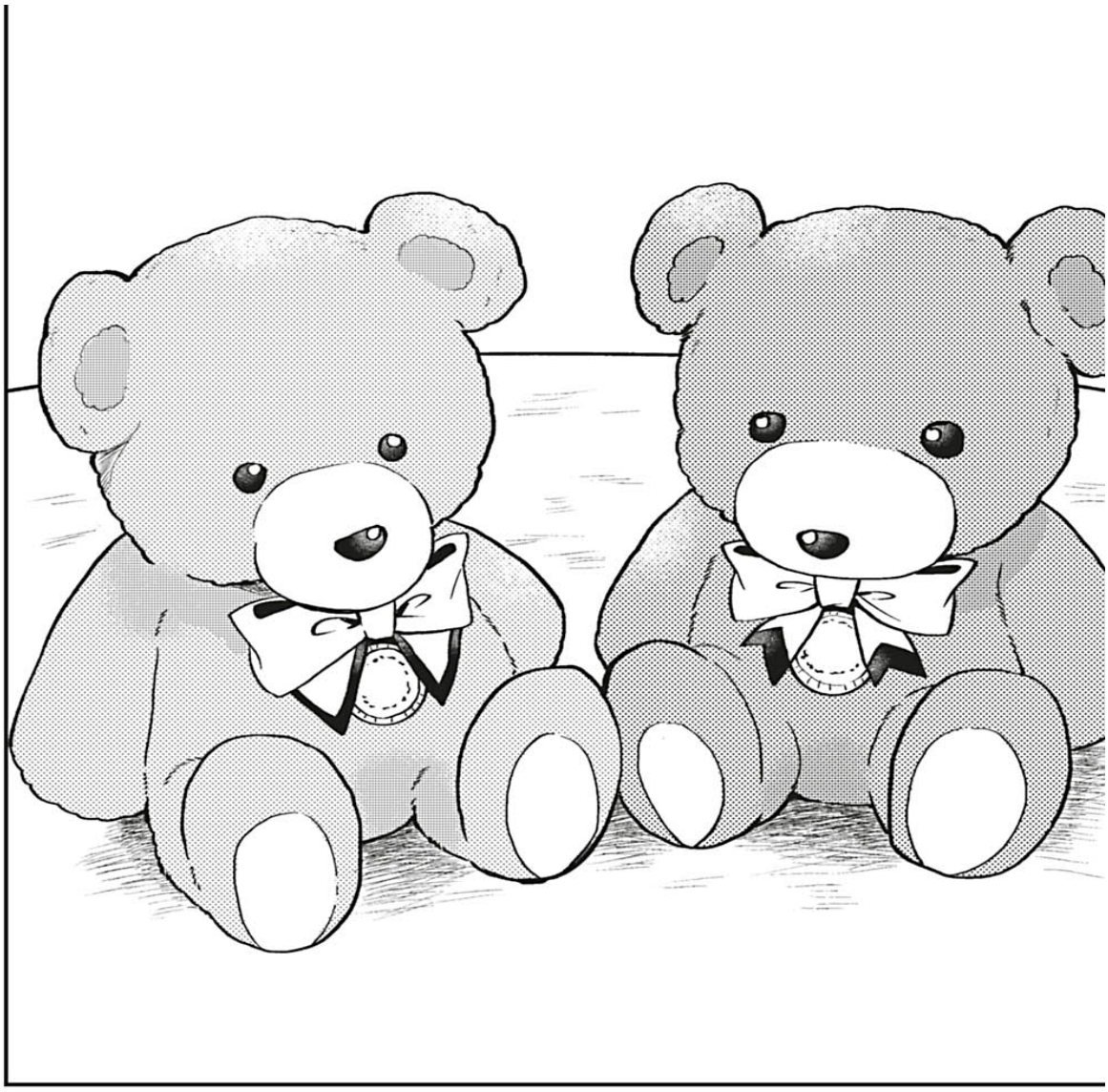

DO THEY EVER HAVE MONSTERS INSIDE?
SOME-TIMES.
FREEZE ひたっ
WHAT'S WRONG?
WELL, AT LEAST WE FOUND ONE.
KER-CHAK カリ チャ
THIS IS...

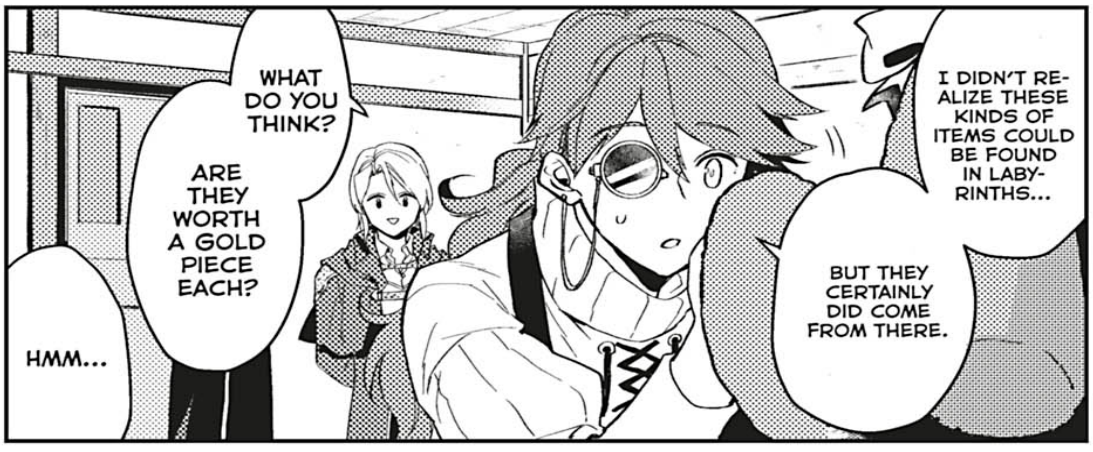

カチャ
KER-CHAK
WELCOME...
FLINCH
ビクッ
HELLO!
I'M BACK!

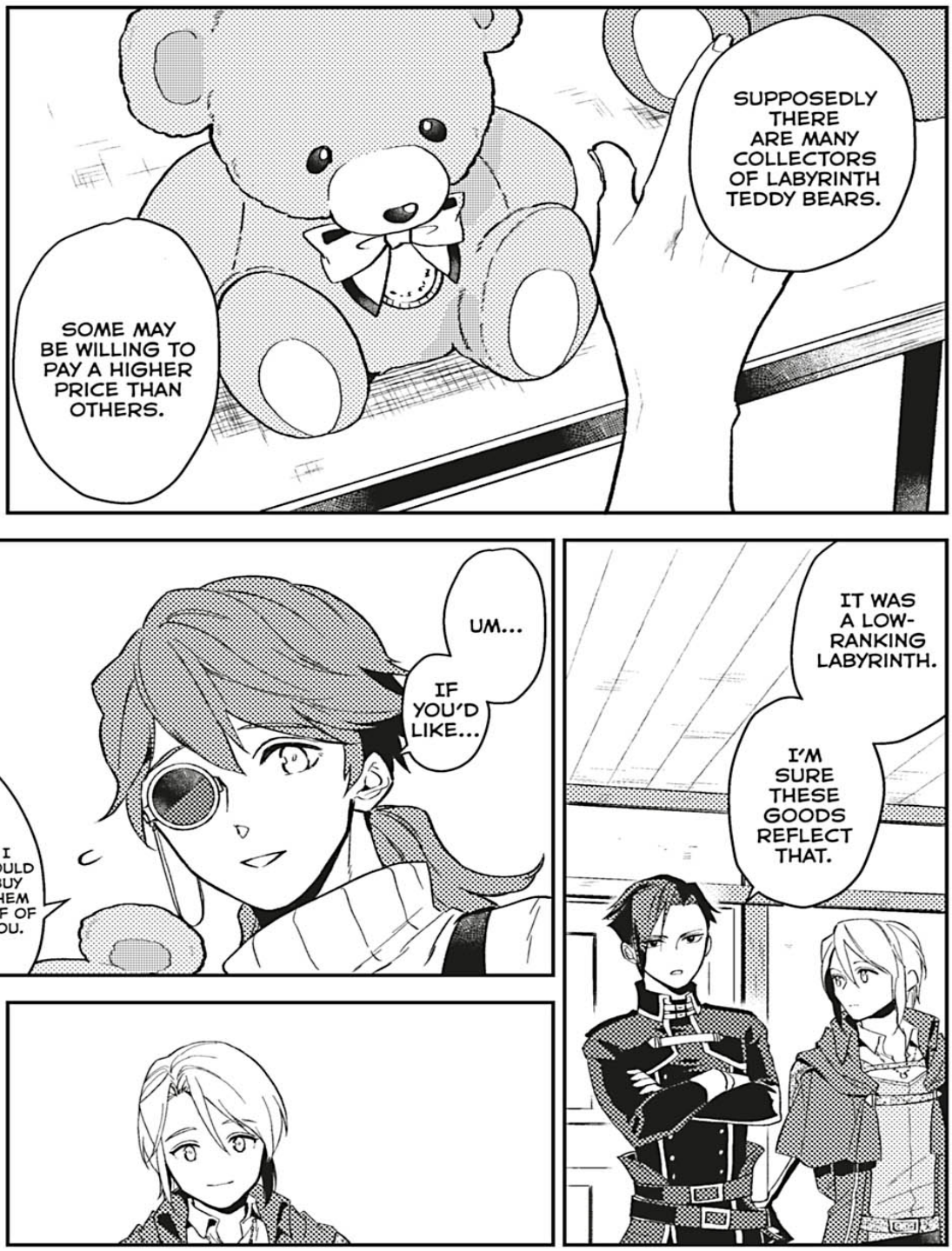



I'M NOT DOING A DAMN THING.
GIL, PLEASE DON'T SCARE HIM.
W-
W-
WEL-COME... B-BACK...


SMILE
I'VE BECOME AN ADVEN-TURER.
AH...
AS YOU CAN SEE...



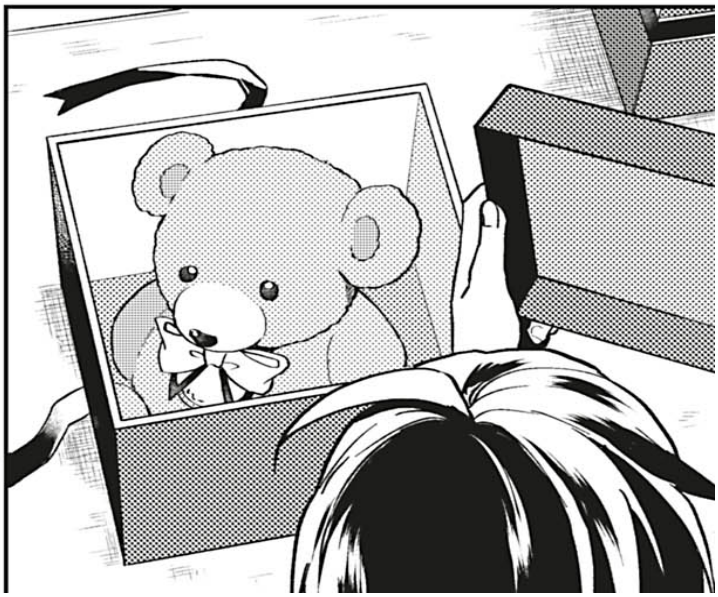

I DIDN'T REALIZE THESE KINDS OF ITEMS COULD BE FOUND IN LABYRINTHS...
BUT THEY CERTAINLY DID COME FROM THERE.
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
ARE THEY WORTH A GOLD PIECE EACH?
HMM...

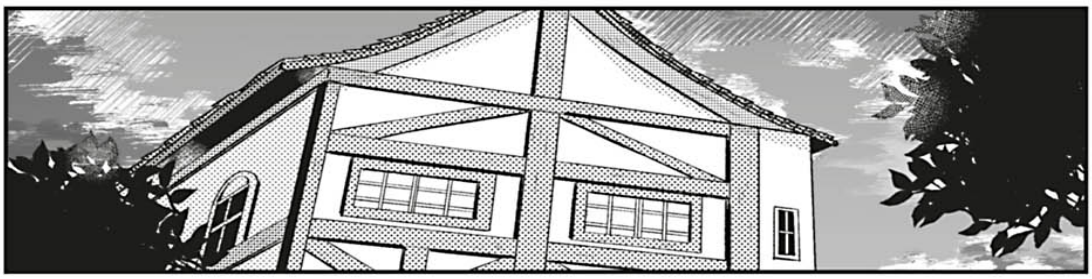

SUPPOSEDLY THERE ARE MANY COLLECTORS OF LABYRINTH TEDDY BEARS.
SOME MAY BE WILLING TO PAY A HIGHER PRICE THAN OTHERS.
IT WAS A LOW-RANKING LABYRINTH.
I'M SURE THESE GOODS REFLECT THAT.
UM...
IF YOU'D LIKE...
I COULD BUY THEM OFF OF YOU.

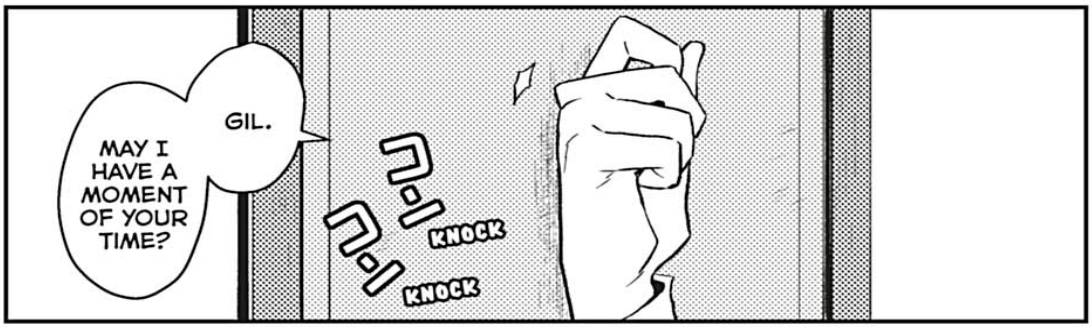

NO, THANK YOU.
PLEASE JUST GIVE US AN APPRAISAL FORM WITH THEIR VALUE AS LABYRINTH GOODS.
A-ARE YOU SURE?


NOT BAD FOR A BEGINNING ADVENTURER, RIGHT?


SHUT
かぽっ






GIL.
MAY I HAVE A MOMENT OF YOUR TIME?
コンコン
KNOCK
KNOCK


ABOUT THE PARTY I TALKED TO AT THE GUILD THIS MORNING...
DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THEM?


YEAH, JUST A LITTLE.
WHAT ABOUT IT?


WHAT'S UP?


I WAS THINKING ABOUT INVESTING IN OTHER PARTIES...
HUH?
OH, MISTER LIZEL!
YOU HAVE GUESTS ASKING FOR YOU.
SPEAK OF THE DEVIL...
AND HE SHALL APPEAR.


SO, WHAT IS IT YOU'D LIKE TO TALK ABOUT?


I'M GLAD.
THAT'S WHY WE'D LIKE TO ASK FOR YOUR HELP ONCE MORE.
MY NAME IS AIGN.
I'M THE LEADER OF THIS PARTY.
THE HINT YOU GAVE ME THIS MORNING REALLY HELPED US OUT.
YEAH.
CLENCH
DO YOU WANT ME TO HELP YOU...
SOLVE THE RIDDLE?


I'LL HELP IF YOU GIVE ME 50% OF THE ACCOM-PLISHMENT REWARD.
RISE スッ…
HMM, LET'S SEE...
I BELIEVE IT'S A REWARD WORTHY OF THE RESULTS.
ALSO...
ガタッ CLATTER
HUH?!
THAT'S WAY TOO MUCH!
RUSTLE スッ…
WH-WHAT?
YOU ARE NOT IN A POSITION TO BE BARTERING ON EQUAL STANDING WITH ME.
DO YOU UNDER-STAND?


I COULD GO...
AND COMPLETE THE LABYRINTH TOMORROW, IF I WANTED TO.
GASP


ガタン
CLATTER
FWUMP
I'M SORRY!
LET'S START OVER FROM THE BEGINNING!
カッ
FWAP
ばっ


WE WANT THE TITLE OF BEING THE FIRST PEOPLE TO COMPLETE THE LABYRINTH NO MATTER WHAT!
SMILE にこっ
AND THE REWARD?
WE'LL GIVE YOU HALF!
NO, WE'LL BUY THE RIGHTS TO HALF!
PLEASE, HELP US!


WE WANT TO BE THE FIRST ONES THROUGH!
WE'RE BEGGING YOU, TOO!
PLEASE HELP US OUT!
はっ
GASP
WHAT DO YOU THINK, GIL?
DO WHAT YOU LIKE.
やっ
CHEER
THEN WE HAVE A DEAL.


AN INVESTMENT, HUH?
GOT IT!
I DON'T WANT ANY STRANGE RUMORS FLOATING AROUND...
SO ONCE YOU'VE FOUND A CRYPTOGRAM, GIVE IT TO THE OWNER OF THIS INN.
INN


GOOD GRIEF.
YOU'VE GOT THEM RIGHT IN THE PALM OF YOUR HAND.
THAT MAKES IT SOUND LIKE I'M PLAYING WITH THEM.
I BELIEVE THEY CAN HANDLE THEMSELVES.
AFTER ALL, THEY'RE C-RANK DESPITE BEING SO YOUNG.
...IF YOU SAY SO.


I REALLY DON'T GET THIS GUY.


HNGH…
もそっ
SNUGGLE
ドタ TAP
ドタ TAP
チュン CHIRP
チュン CHIRP
Chapter 5
SLAM ばんっ
MORNING!
HEY, WAKE UP.
YOUR REGULARS ARE HERE.
カチャ
KER-CHAK
JUST START TALKING OR YOU'LL BE HERE UNTIL NOON.
GOTCHA.
IS HE ACTUALLY AWAKE?


SLUGGISH...
HEY.
WAKE UP.
MMM...
SNUGGLE
YOU SHOULD HAVE STOPPED BY ON YOUR WAY HOME YESTERDAY.
WE WERE TOO EXHAUSTED TO!
WE THOUGHT ABOUT THE CRYPTO-GRAM ON OUR WAG-ON RIDE HOME...
BUT...
HUH?
ちょい ちょい
FLAP FLAP
THE NEW FLOORS ARE ALL MAZES, TOO...
THERE ARE TONS OF MON-STERS...
AND BY THE TIME WE FIND OUR WAY BACK OUT-SIDE, IT'S MIDNIGHT!
WOW...


ばっ
FWAP
!
WERE THERE... TEN DOORS?
なでPAT
なでPAT
EH?
OH, YEAH!
GO IN THE SECOND ONE FROM THE LEFT.
THEN THE FIFTH ONE...
HUH?
THEN EIGHT...
ONE...
WAIT!
TURN AROUND, THEN GO THROUGH THE DOOR SIX PLACES TO THE LEFT OF THE ONE YOU ENTERED.
THEN THREE...
TEN...
IF IT'S CHANGED, THE ORDER IS IN REVERSE.
FWAP
FWAP
WAIT, I NEED TO TAKE NOTES.
CAN YOU SAY THAT AGAIN FROM THE BEGIN-NING?
LIZEL, WAKE UP!


WHAT'S THE MATTER, STUDD?
THE MAN WHO SUBMITTED THE LABYRINTH REQUEST WAS GREATLY PLEASED WITH YOUR WORK...
AND WISHES TO THANK YOU PERSONALLY HIMSELF.
HUH?
UM...
THIS WAY, PLEASE.

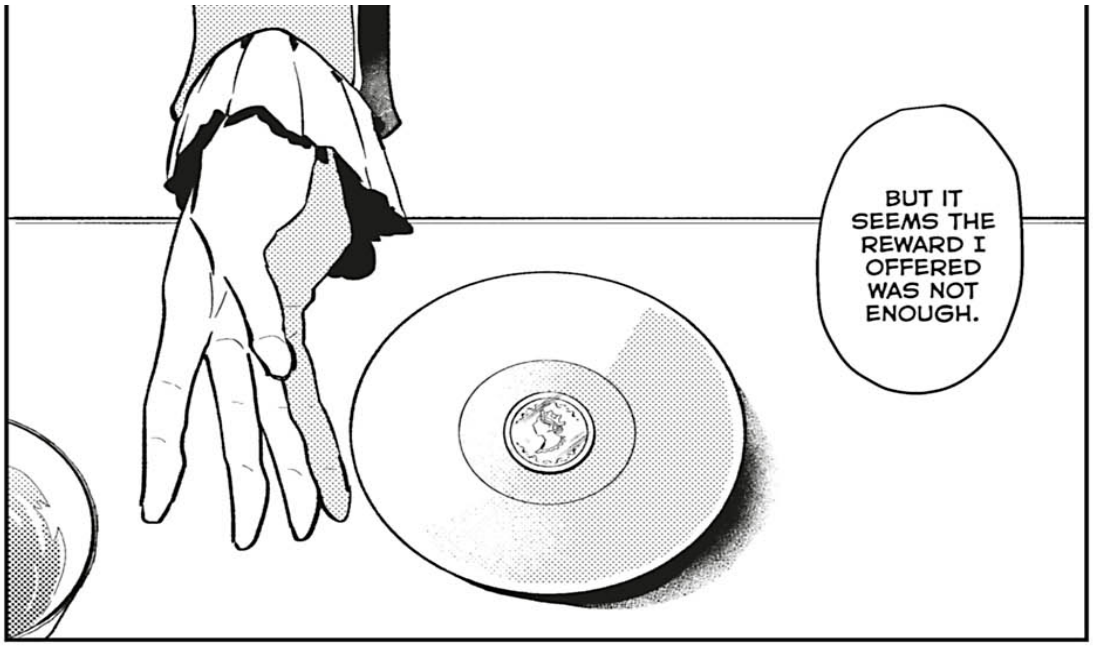

ガチャッ
KER-CHAK
PLEASE WAIT HERE.
SHUT
バタン
SOMETHING FELT OFF.
ESPECIALLY SINCE THE COLLECTOR DID NOT RELEASE HIS TRUE NAME DESPITE SURELY WANTING PUBLIC RECOGNITION...
AND WAS FINE WITH PAYING TEN SILVER PIECES NO MATTER WHAT CAME OUT OF THE MAZE.
DID YOU... KNOW THAT THE REQUESTER WAS A HOT-SHOT?
OF COURSE NOT.
ALTHOUGH I WAS CURIOUS.
コーン
KNOCK
コーン
KNOCK
EXCUSE ME. THE REQUESTER HAS ARRIVED.


SLAM
TERRIBLY SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING!
...OH?

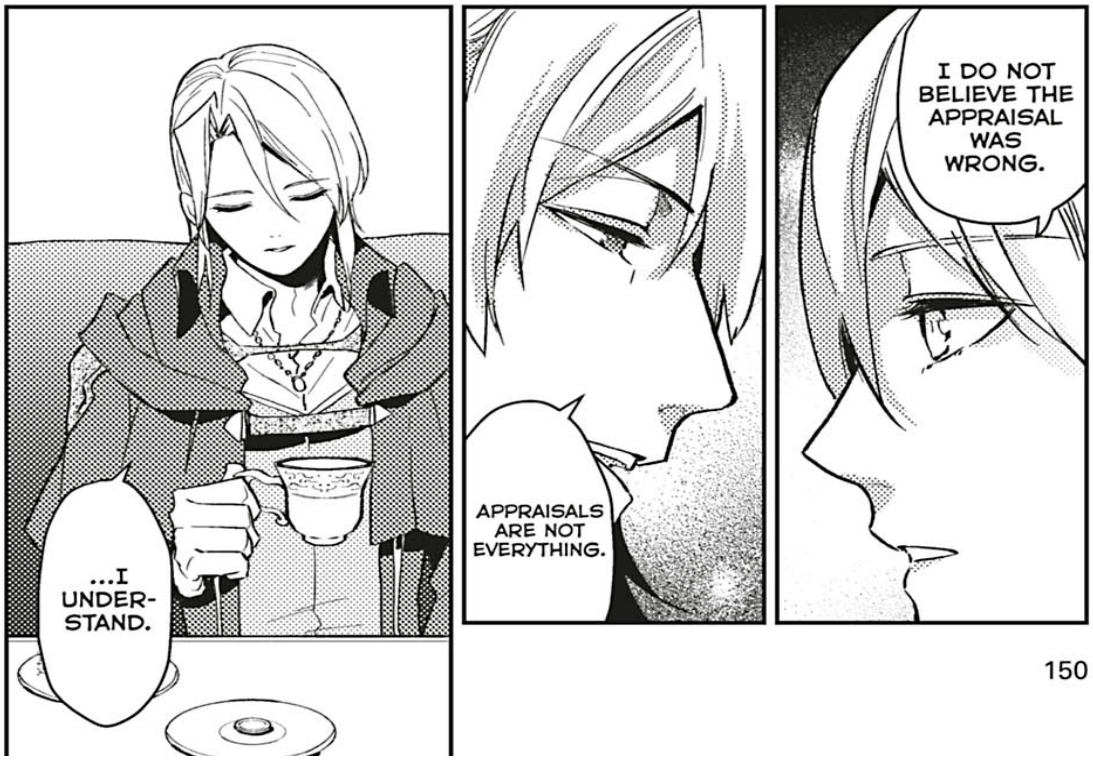

AM I IN THE RIGHT ROOM?
?
YES, SO PLEASE GO INSIDE.
IT'S AN HONOR TO HAVE AN AUDIENCE WITH YOU.
MY NAME IS LIZEL AND I AM THE ADVEN-TURER...
WHO ACCEPTED YOUR REQUEST.
WHAT A SURPRISE!
I NEVER EXPECTED TO MEET AN ADVENTURER LIKE YOU!
I THOUGHT I'D ENTERED ANOTHER CLIENT'S ROOM.
I'M SORRY. NOT THAT I MEAN THAT IN A BAD WAY.
I OFTEN HEAR THE SAME, SO DO NOT WORRY.
PLEASE GET ON WITH IT.
OH, SO SORRY.
PLEASE SIT DOWN.


YOU MAY CALL ME...
LET'S SEE... HOW ABOUT "RAY"?
I AM A VISCOUNT TASKED WITH MANAGING THE MILITARY POLICE FORCE.
MANY ADVENTURERS MAY NOT BE FOND OF A MAN IN MY POSITION.
NOW, LET'S GET DOWN TO BUSINESS.
CLACK


I JUST WANTED TO THANK YOU FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART!
I HAVEN'T BEEN SO MOVED IN SUCH A LONG TIME!
THAT WRAPPING!
AND THE LABYRINTH GOODS!
YOUR WORDS ARE TOO KIND.
REGARDING YOUR REQUEST...
WERE YOU UNSATISFIED BY SOME-THING?
NO!
NOT AT ALL.
BY THE WAY, I'M TERRIBLY SORRY...

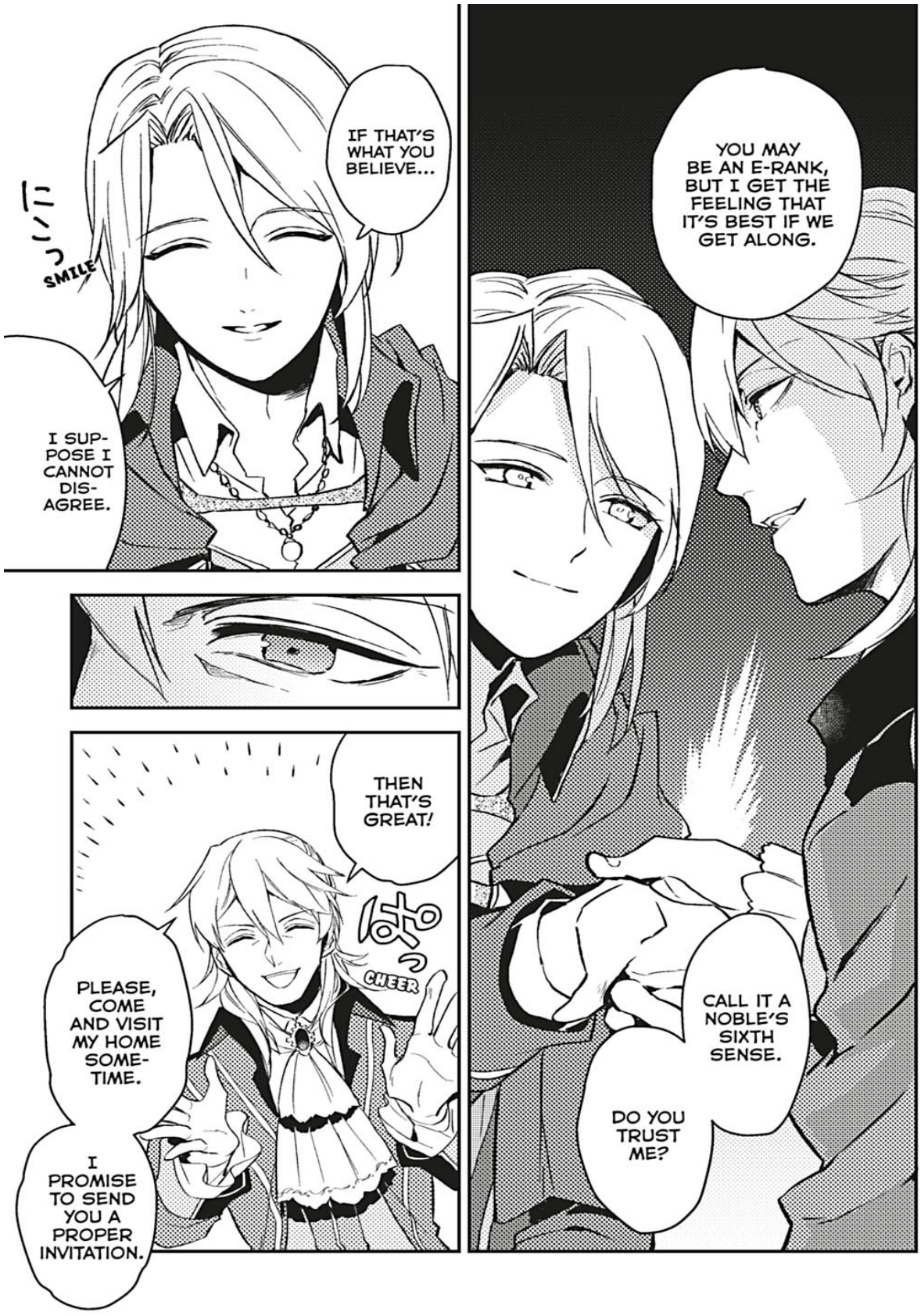

BUT IT SEEMS THE REWARD I OFFERED WAS NOT ENOUGH.


YOU MUST KNOW ITS TRUE VALUE.
YOU WRAPPED THE TEDDY BEAR SO CAREFULLY.
I DON'T.
CLACK
I BELIEVE THIS IS TOO MUCH TO COVER THE WRAPPING FEE.


...I UNDER-STAND.
APPRAISALS ARE NOT EVERYTHING.
I DO NOT BELIEVE THE APPRAISAL WAS WRONG.


IN THAT CASE, WE'LL GLADLY ACCEPT THIS.
YOU SAID YOUR NAME IS LIZEL, CORRECT?
I HOPE WE CAN BECOME FRIENDS.
REACH スッ


MMM...
YOU MUST NOT HAVE BEEN ADVENTURING LONG TO HAVE SUCH BEAUTIFUL HANDS.
WHAT SORT OF WEAPON DO YOU USE?
ARE YOU A WIZARD?
PLEASE KEEP YOUR HANDS TO YOURSELF.
I'M FINE, STUDD.
I CAN'T PERFORM ANY POWERFUL MAGIC...
BUT I KNOW ENOUGH TO HANDLE MYSELF.
HOWEVER, I AM ONLY E-RANK AND AM NOT DESERVING OF YOUR PATRONAGE.

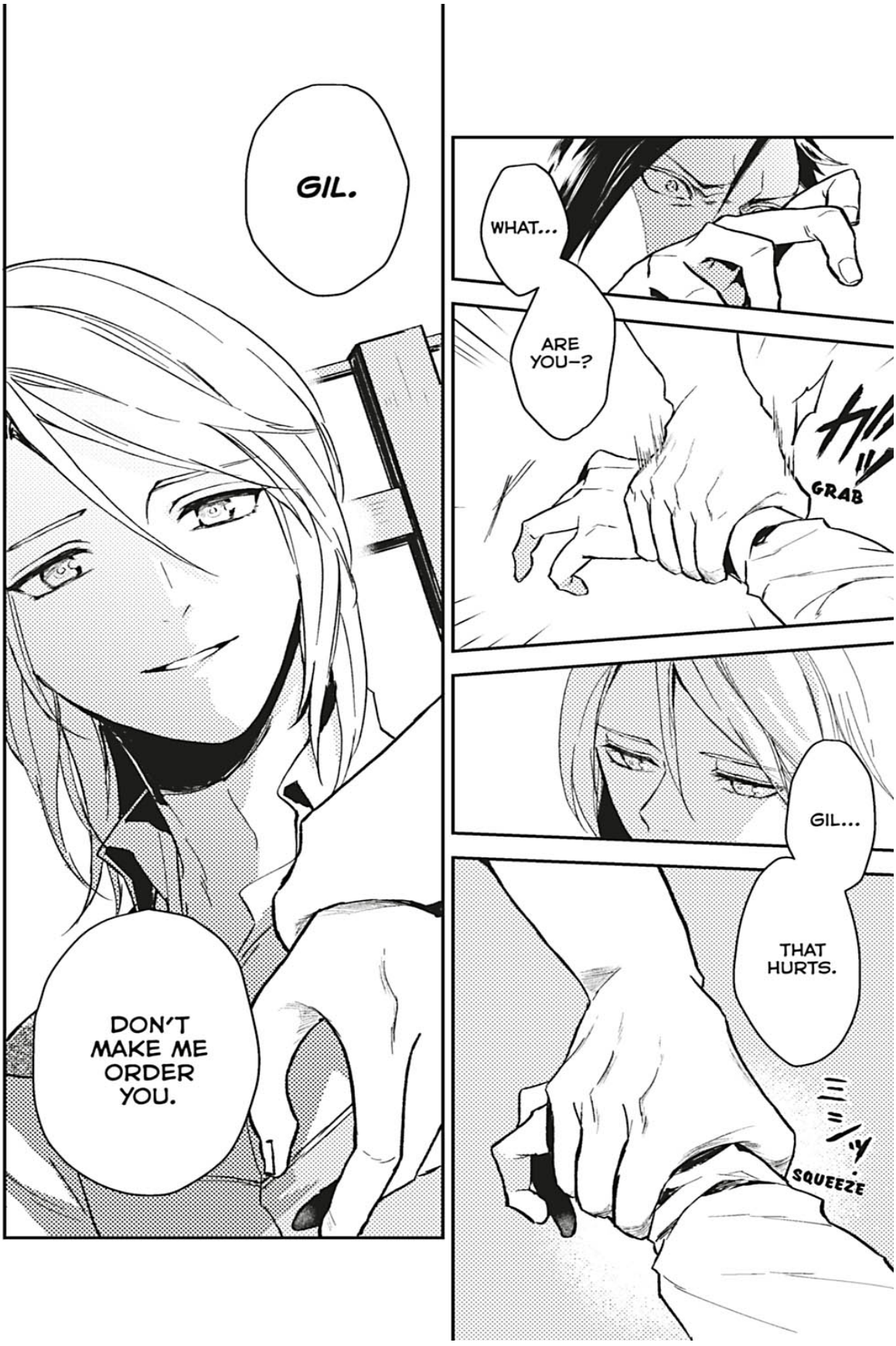

YOU MAY BE AN E-RANK, BUT I GET THE FEELING THAT IT'S BEST IF WE GET ALONG.
CALL IT A NOBLE'S SIXTH SENSE.
DO YOU TRUST ME?
IF THAT'S WHAT YOU BELIEVE...
SMILE
I SUP-POSE I CANNOT DIS-AGREE.
THEN THAT'S GREAT!
ぱっ
CHEER
PLEASE, COME AND VISIT MY HOME SOME-TIME.
I PROMISE TO SEND YOU A PROPER INVITATION.


THANK YOU, STUDD.
I BELIEVE WE WILL.
I'M SORRY FOR THE TROUBLE.
FEEL FREE TO REST HERE A WHILE LONGER.
NOW, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME...
HE WAS SUSPI-CIOUS AND MUST KNOW NOW THAT I'M OF NOBILITY.
I AGREE.
BUT IT MUST HAVE BEEN A NICE COINCIDENCE FOR HIM.
HE REALLY DIDN'T SEEM TO THINK YOU WERE THE ONE WHO'D ACCEPTED THE REQUEST.
HE CHECKED...
MY HANDS, DIDN'T HE?
トー TAP
トー TAP
DO YOU HAVE ANY PROOF?

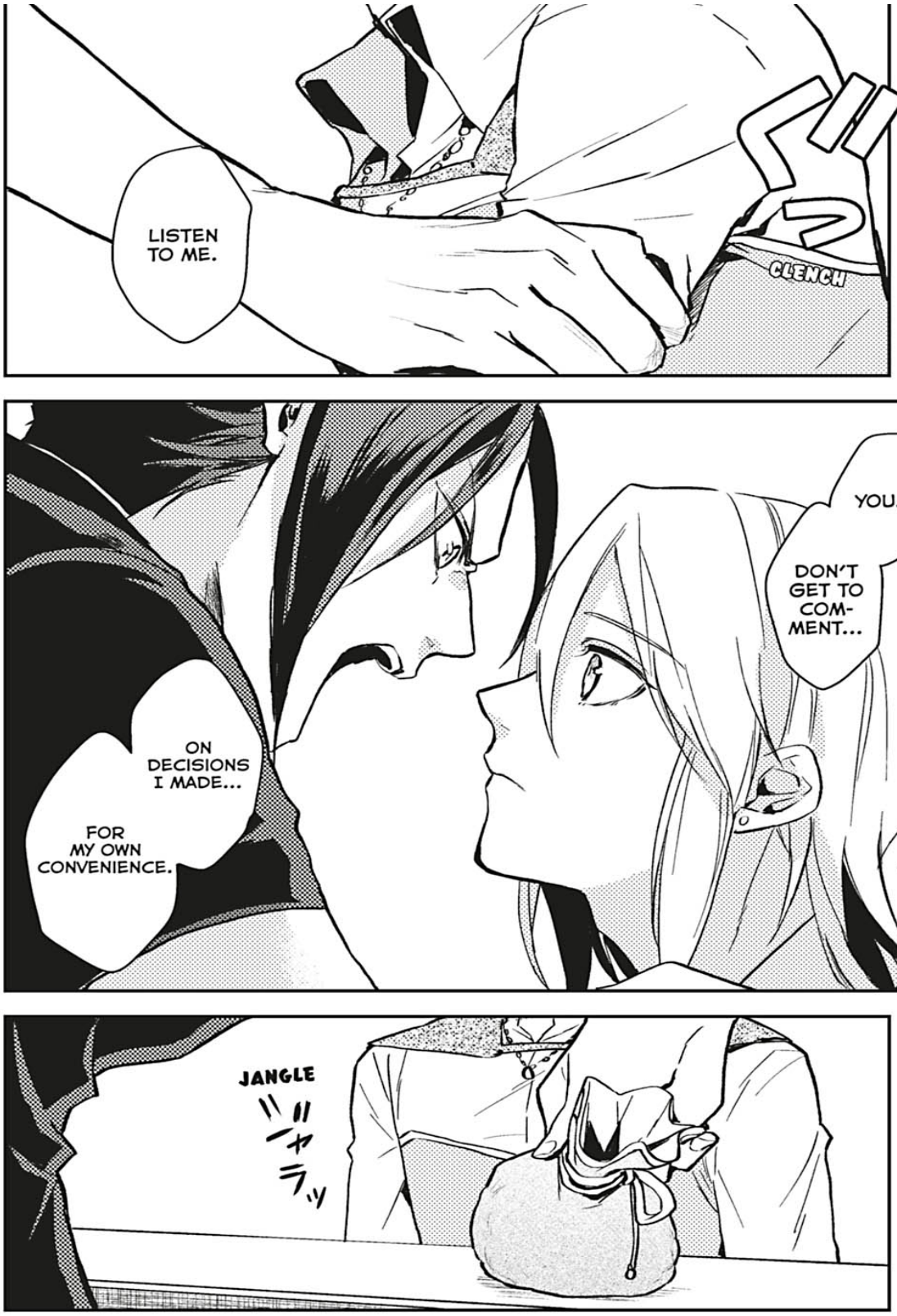

KNOWING YOU, I HAVE NO DOUBT YOU COULD FALSIFY YOUR OWN HEART RATE.
PUB
AIGN AND THE OTHERS DIDN'T TRY TO CHEAT US.
THEY REALLY ARE GOOD KIDS.
CLANG
カラン
CLANG
カラン
MORE LIKE THEY COULDN'T CHEAT YOU EVEN IF THEY TRIED.
DID YOU HEAR ABOUT AIGN'S PARTY?
CLAMOR
CLAMOR
YEAH.
I WAS SO SURPRISED. WHO THOUGHT THEY'D GO THROUGH THE LABYRINTH SO QUICKLY?
ARE YOU FOR REAL?
THEY WENT THROUGH THE WHOLE THING?
THAT WAS SO FAST!

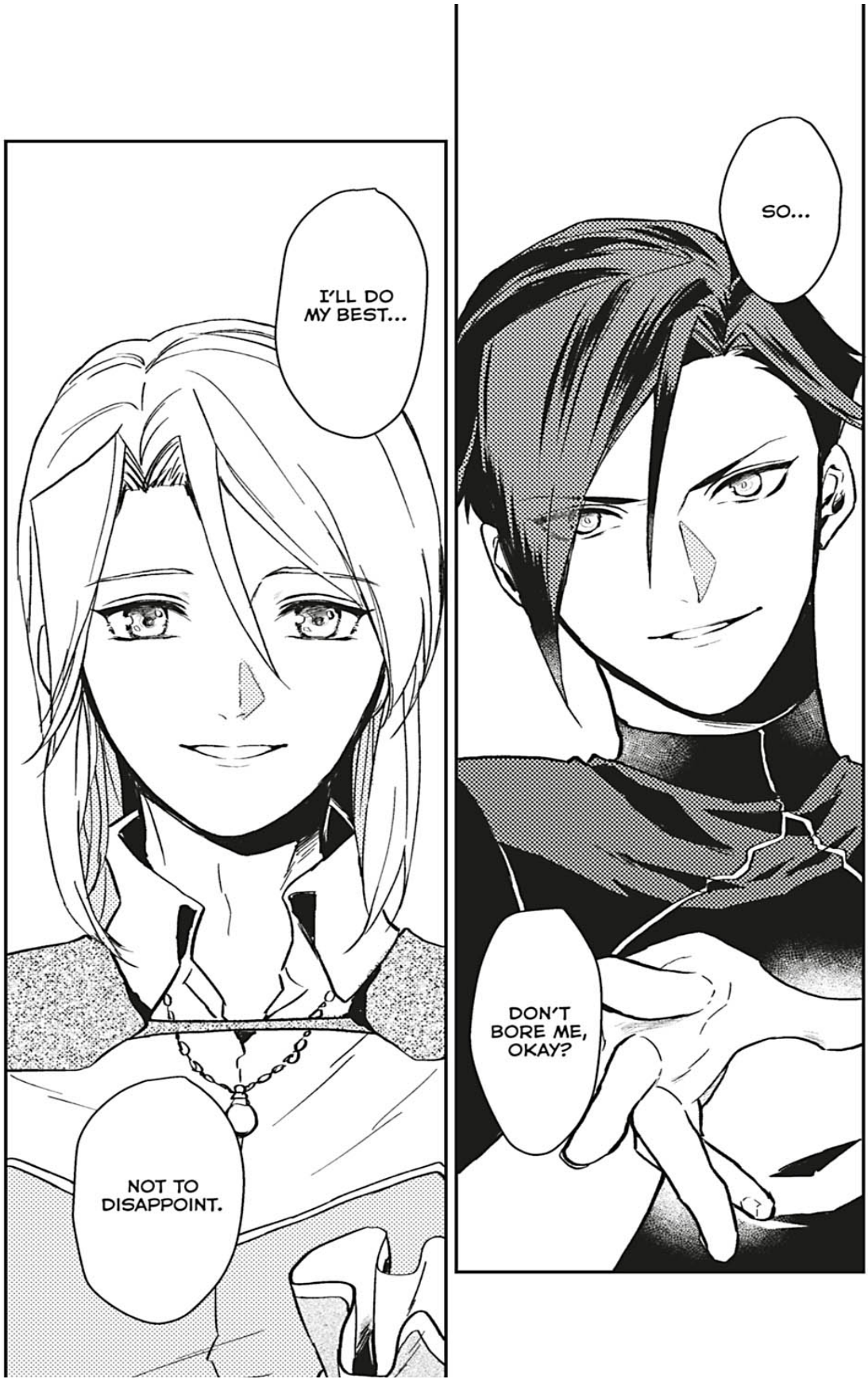

THANK YOU FOR THE PAST MONTH.
JANGLE
BUT YOU WEREN'T ABLE TO TAKE ALL MY MONEY.
THAT'S BECAUSE YOU MADE A TON AT THE LAST MINUTE.
THAT SEEMS LIKE A LOT.
IT'S TO SHOW MY APPRECI-ATION...
AND TO SAVE A FUTURE RESER-VATION.
TWITCH
A RESERVATION?


IF I NEED YOUR HELP IN THE FUTURE...
WILL YOU BE AVAILABLE TO ASSIST ME?
CLACK
HEY...
CRACK


GIL.
DON'T MAKE ME ORDER YOU.
WHAT...
ARE YOU-?
GRAB
GIL...
THAT HURTS.
SQUEEZE

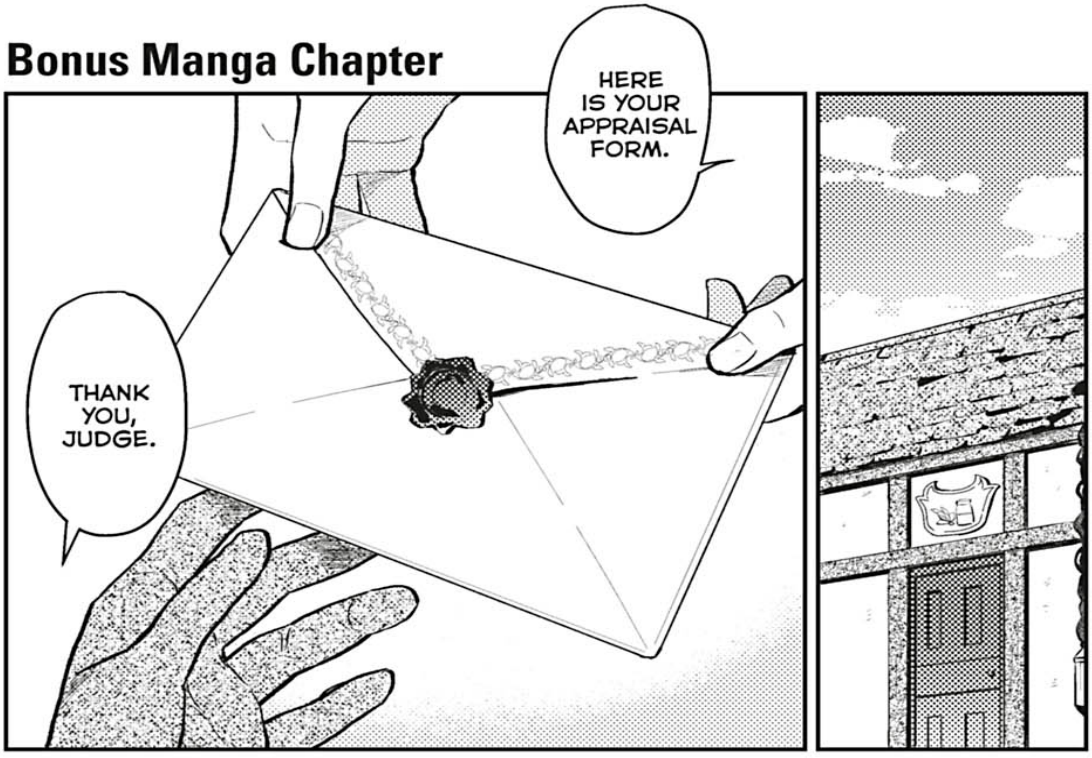

I...
DON'T WANT TO TIE YOU DOWN.
STOP MESSING AROUND.
I'M SORRY.


LISTEN TO ME.
CLENCH
YOU...
DON'T GET TO COM-MENT...
ON DECISIONS I MADE...
FOR MY OWN CONVENIENCE.
JANGLE
ハァラッ


SO...
DON'T BORE ME, OKAY?
I'LL DO MY BEST...
NOT TO DISAPPOINT.


EVERYONE NEEDS A DRINK...
AFTER MAKING UP, RIGHT?
UM, SIR...
HUH?
WHAT IS THIS?
カリクン
CLATTER
CLACK
コトッ

Bonus Manga Chapter



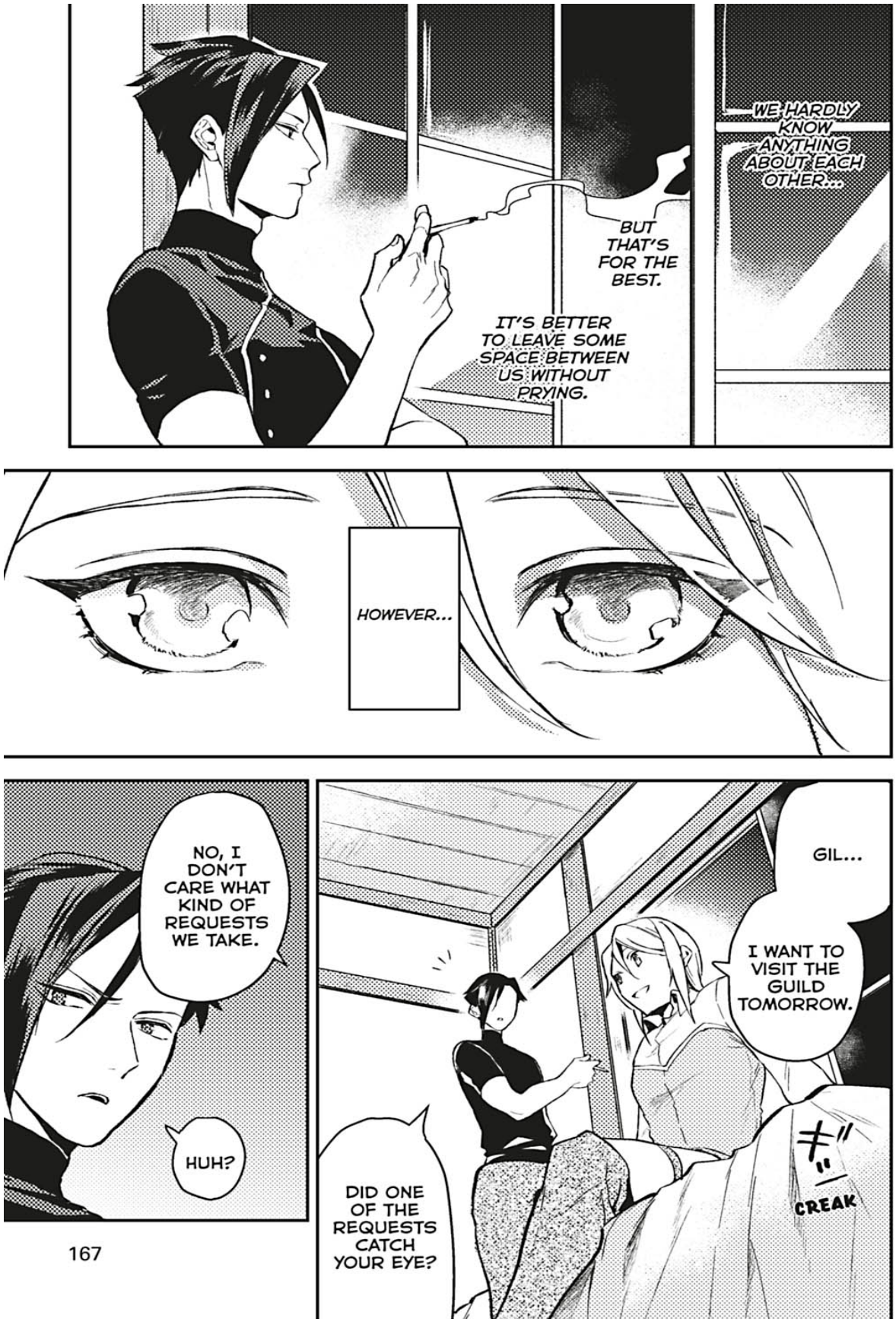


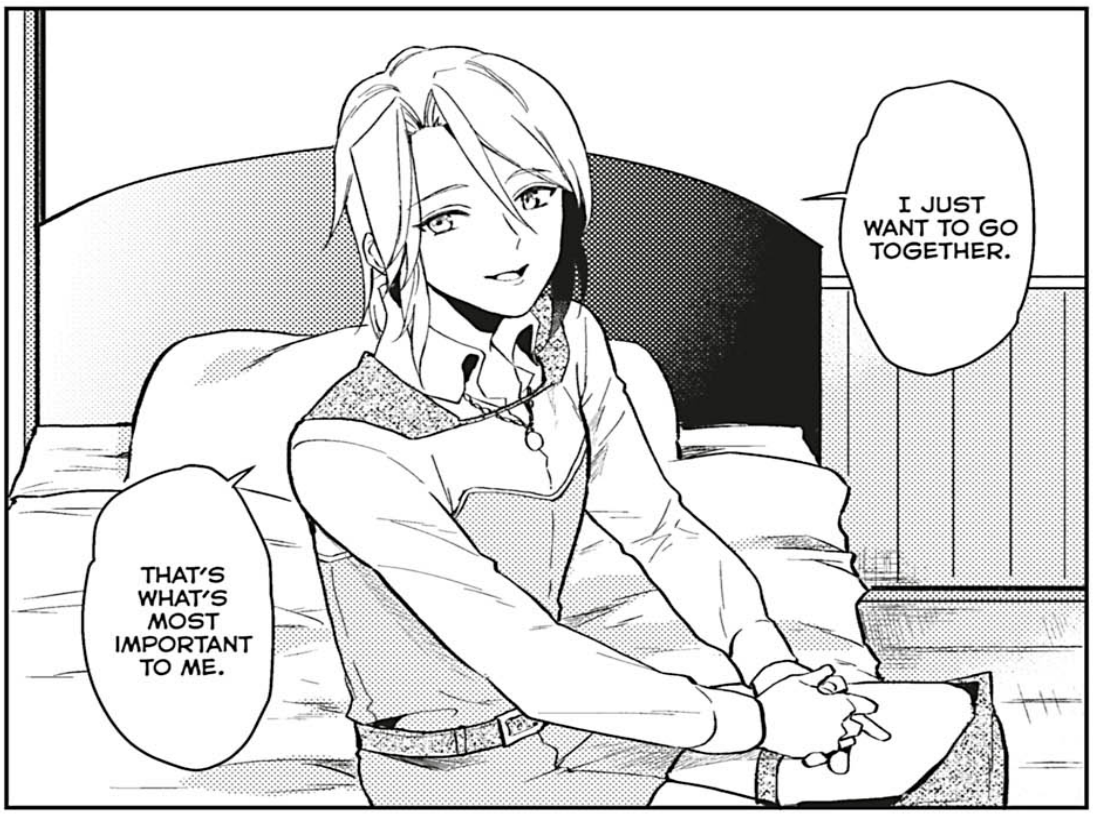



HEY, LIZEL!
HELLO, AIGN.
YUP!
WE'RE ABOUT TO HEAD INTO ANOTHER LABYRINTH.
YOU SEEM ENER-GETIC, AS USUAL.
WHAT'S UP?

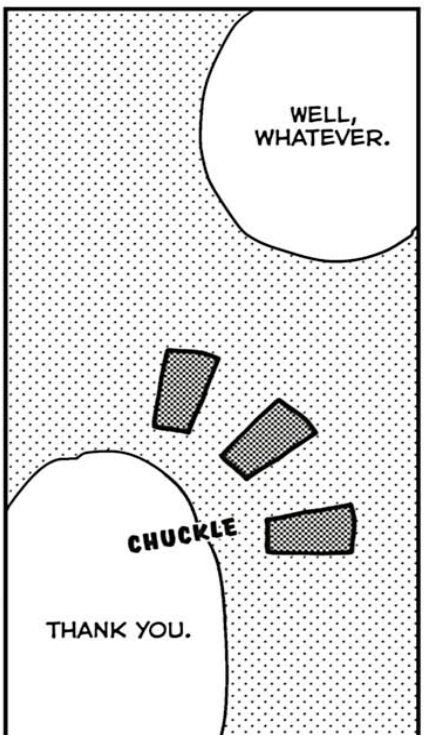

STARE じっ
WHAT'S THE MAT-TER?
IT'S WEIRD TO SEE YA WITHOUT SINGLE STROKE.
YOU TWO ALWAYS DRAW ATTENTION.
YEAH, YEAH!
YOU REALLY STICK OUT WHEN YOU STAND TOGETHER.
NOT THAT YOU DON'T STAND OUT BY YOURSELF, LIZEL!
...HEH.
IS THAT SO?


GIL...
I'M COMING IN.
HEY.
YOU SMOKE?
SOME-TIMES.


WE HARDLY KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT EACH OTHER...
BUT THAT'S FOR THE BEST.
IT'S BETTER TO LEAVE SOME SPACE BETWEEN US WITHOUT PRYING.
HOWEVER...
NO, I DON'T CARE WHAT KIND OF REQUESTS WE TAKE.
HUH?
GIL...
I WANT TO VISIT THE GUILD TOMORROW.
CREAK
DID ONE OF THE REQUESTS CATCH YOUR EYE?


I JUST WANT TO GO TOGETHER.
THAT'S WHAT'S MOST IMPORTANT TO ME.




WELL, WHATEVER.
CHUCKLE
THANK YOU.


...


HEH
HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN SINCE I FOUND SOMEONE...
I WANT TO STAND BESIDE?
WHAT A STRANGE MAN.

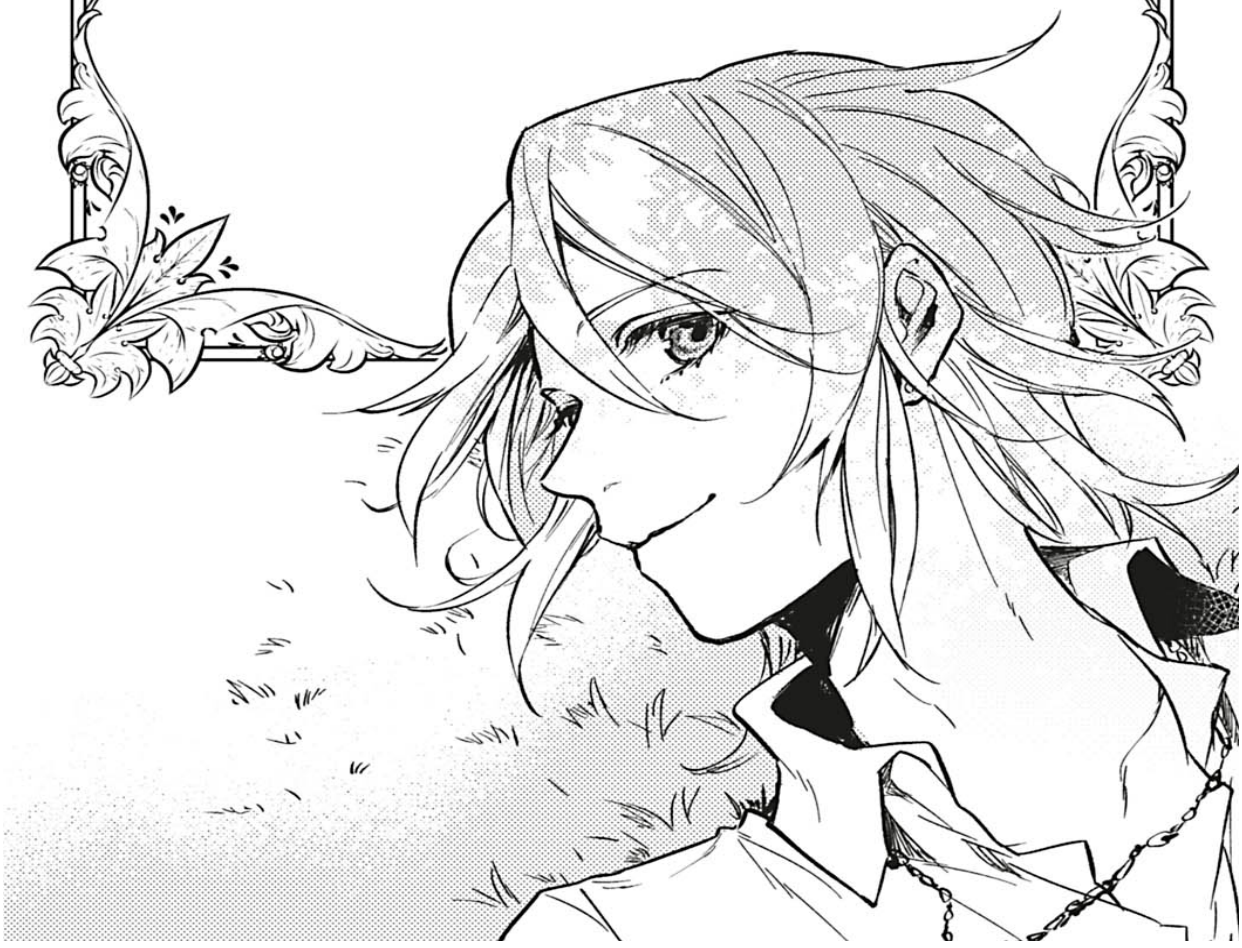

GIL.
WHAT?
I CAN SEE US BEING PARTNERS FOR A LONG TIME.
HMPH
YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT.

A Gentle Noble's
VACATION
RECOMMENDATION

End of Volume 1

It's nice to meet you! I'm Momochi.
This is my first time publishing a comic, so after I was given the opportunity I had to fight an unusual amount of anxiety.
Now that it's been published without any major problems, I feel like I can take a breath of relief.

In the next volume, more charming characters will continue to be introduced alongside Lizel and Gil.
I hope fans of the original light novel series as well as fans who learned about the series through the manga can enjoy it!

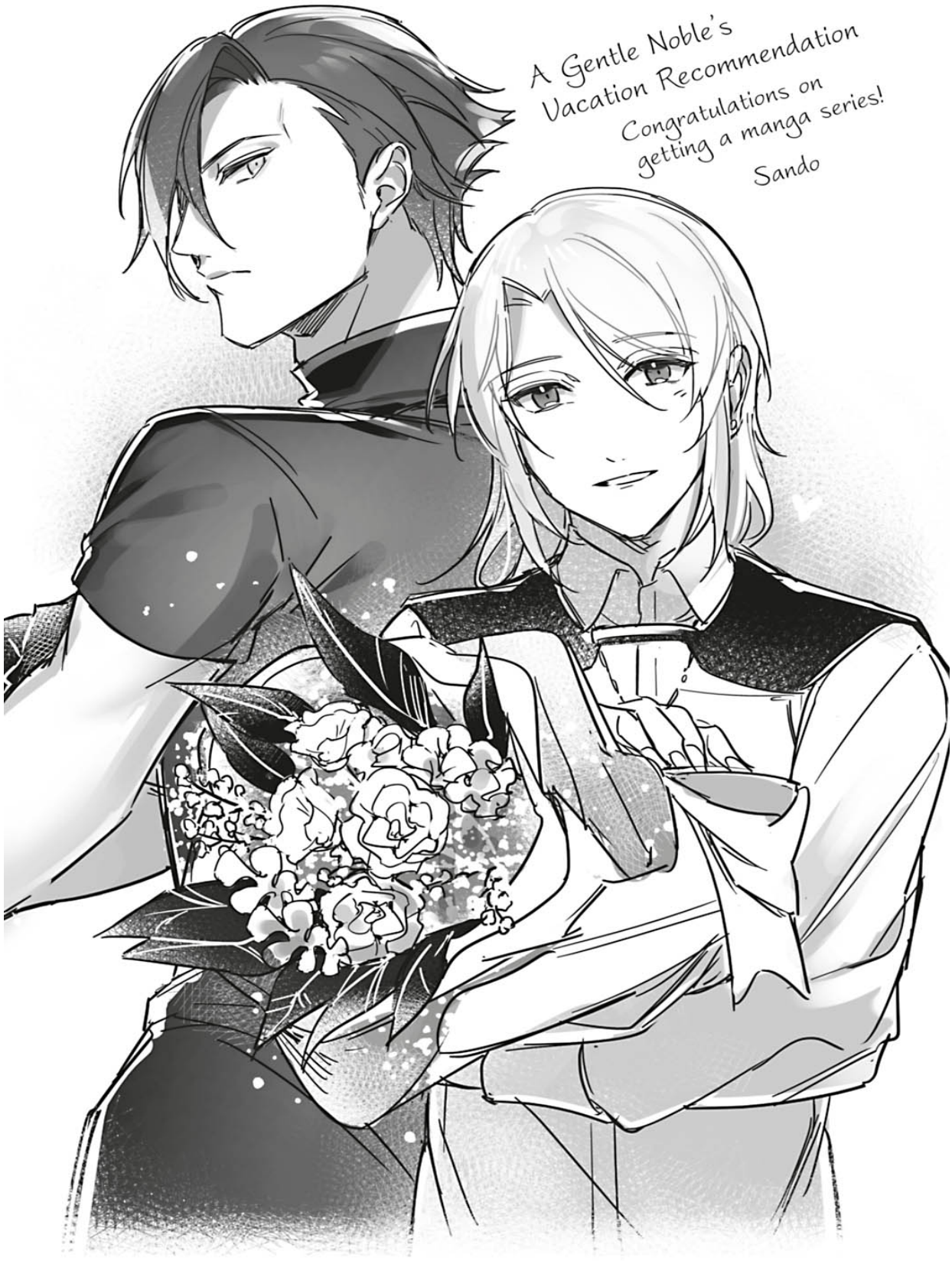


Post Script

Thanks to the love and devotion of the series' fans, Lizel's vacation has finally been adapted into a manga! I've received many comments from devoted fans, such as "I collected all the books!" and "I wish they hadn't cut out this scene!" and "Gil was unexpectedly expressive." Every comment makes me as happy as can be. You've all been so kind. For those new to the series, hello! I'm Misaki.

In any case, Momochi-sensei's Lizel is absolutely marvelous! In contrast to the angelic Lizel drawn by Sando-sensei, who was in charge of character design and illustrations for the novels, Momochi-sensei shows us a Lizel who is a little devilish but adorable when he's just woken up. Isn't his sleepy face the cutest?! In the original novels, Lizel is wishy-washy and peculiarly reserved, which almost makes him a poor protagonist. To think he could become this lively! At the same time as I cry tears of gratitude, I also live in fear of readers' opinions.

Momochi-sensei has brought Lizel and the other characters to life so that they can continue to enjoy their vacations. Please continue to relax alongside them in future volumes!


A Gentle Noble's
Vacation Recommendation
Congratulations on
getting a manga series!
Sando

A Gentle Noble's VACATION RECOMMENDATION

HANGER

FROM POLICE OFFICER TO SPECIAL INVESTIGATOR —

Hajime's sudden transfer comes with an unexpected twist: a super-powered convict as his partner!



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Servant & Lord

YEARS AGO, MUSIC BROUGHT THEM TOGETHER...

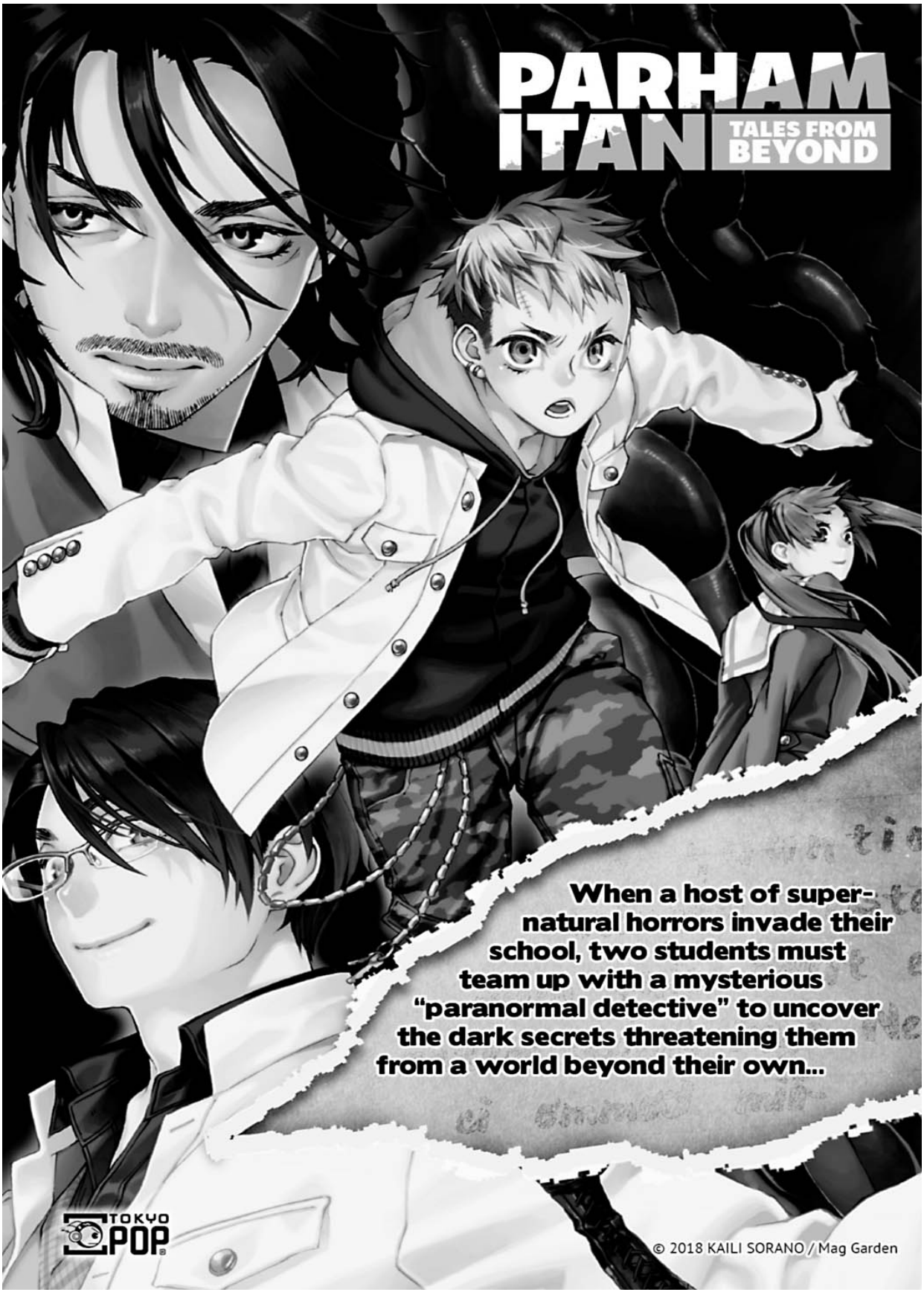
AND THEN, EVERYTHING CHANGED.



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WOMEN of MANGA

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ITAN
TALES FROM BEYOND
When a host of super-natural horrors invade their school, two students must team up with a mysterious "paranormal detective" to uncover the dark secrets threatening them from a world beyond their own...
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IT'S UP TO THE PRINCESS TO SAVE HER PRINCE IN DISTRESS!



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DEKO-BOKO SUGAR DAYS

SUGAR & SPICE & EVERYTHING NICE!

Yuujirou might be a bit salty about his short stature, but he's been sweet on six-foot-tall Rui since they were both small. The only problem is... Rui is so cute, Yuujirou's too flustered to confess! It's a tall order, but he'll just have to step up!



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REPLAY

There's nothing Yuta loves more than baseball...

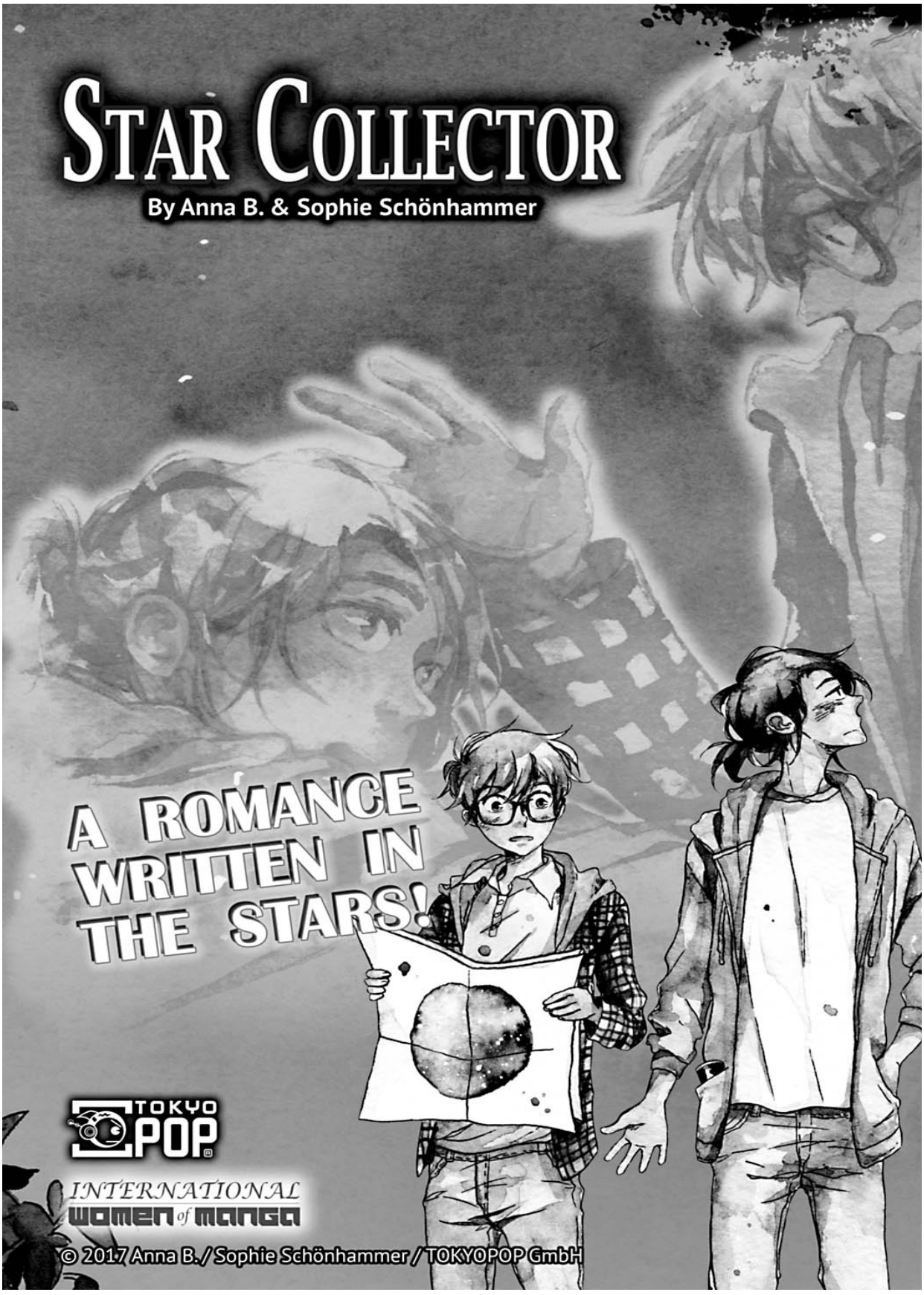
Except Ritsu.



A heartwarming love story about growing up and facing the future together.

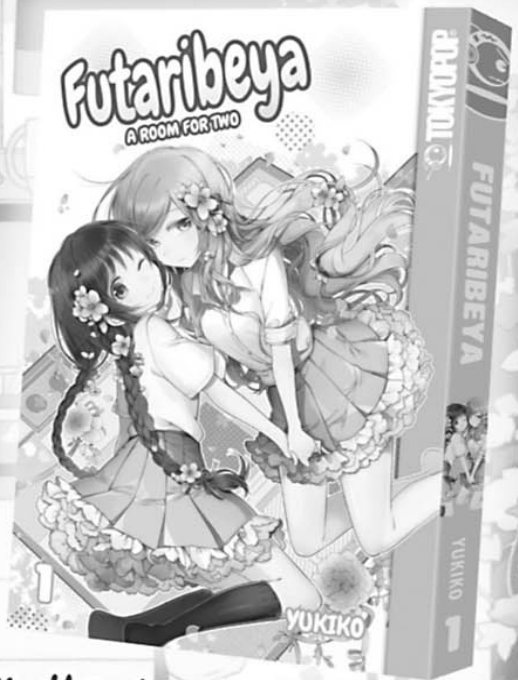
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STAR COLLECTOR
By Anna B. & Sophie Schönhammer
A ROMANCE WRITTEN IN THE STARS!
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INTERNATIONAL
WOMEN of MANGA
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Futaribeya
A ROOM FOR TWO

It's Sakurako Kawawa's first day of high school, and the day she meets her new roommate – the incredibly gorgeous Kasumi Yamabuki!



Follow the heartwarming, hilarious daily life of two high school roommates in this new, four-panel-style comic!

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KONOHANA KITAN
KONOHANA KITAN 1
Amano Sakuya
Welcome, valued guest...
to Konohanatei!
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PRICE: $12.99

GRIMMS manga Tales



The Grimm's Tales reimagined in manga!

Beautiful art by the talented Kei Ishiyama!

Stories from Little Red Riding Hood to Hansel and Gretel!

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© Kei Ishiyama/TOKYOPOP GmbH

YURI BEAR STORM



BEARS ARE THE BEGINNING AND THE END...

BUT WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A BEAR PRINCESS FALLS IN LOVE WITH A HUMAN GIRL?

ADD ALL 3 VOLUMES TO YOUR COLLECTION!

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スティル・シック
What if your co-worker discovered your nerdy hobby...?
An embarrassing secret sparks an unexpected office romance!
Still Sick
1
AKASHI
TOKYOPOP
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TOKYOPOP PRESENTS

GOLDFISCH

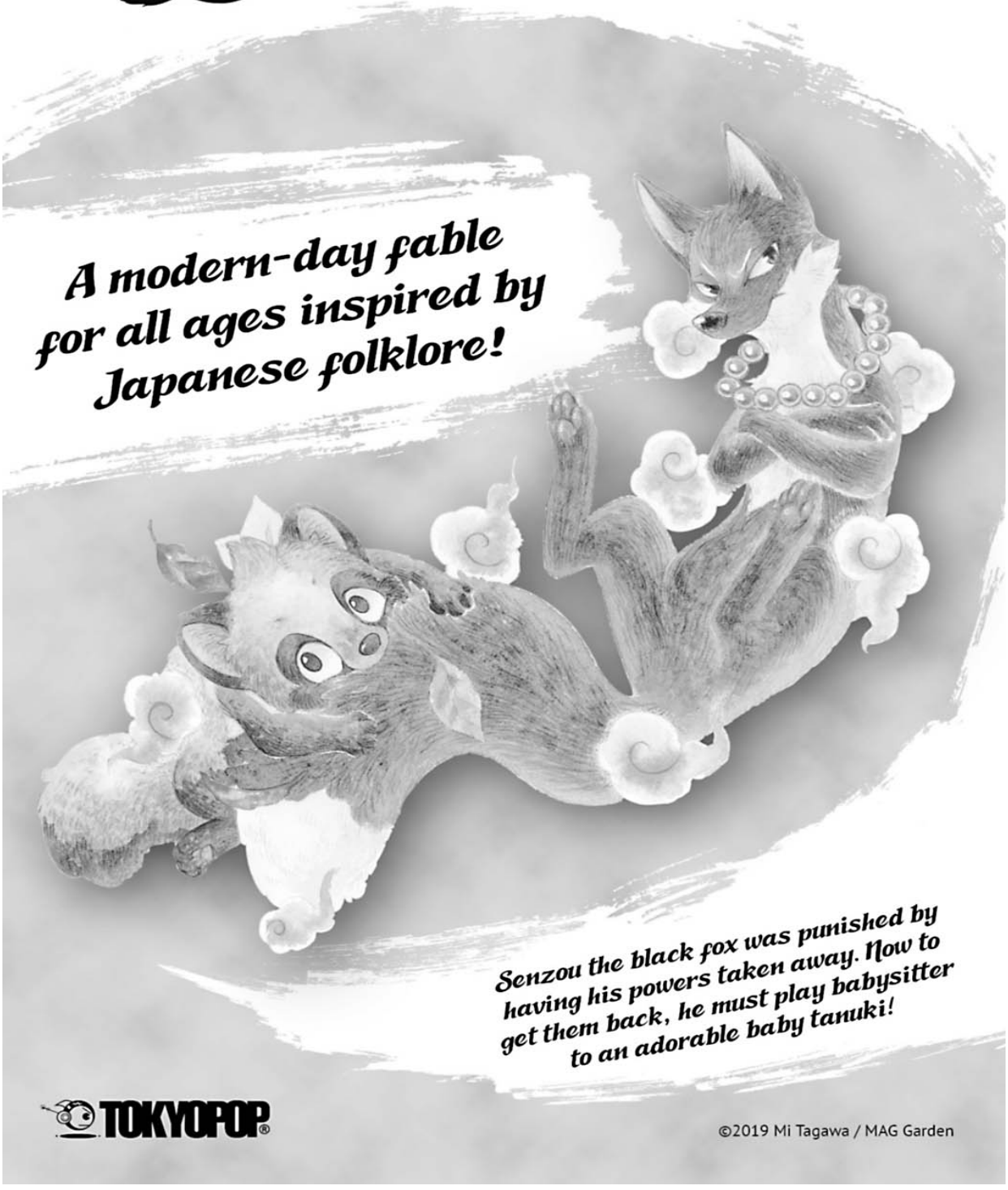
Join Morrey and his swimmingly cute pet Otta on his adventure to reverse his Midas-like powers and save his frozen brother. Mega-hit shonen manga from hot new European creator Nana Yaa!



© TOKYOPOP GmbH / Nana Yaa

The Fox & Little Tanuki

KORISENMAN



A modern-day fable for all ages inspired by Japanese folklore!

Senzou the black fox was punished by having his powers taken away. Now to get them back, he must play babysitter to an adorable baby tanuki!

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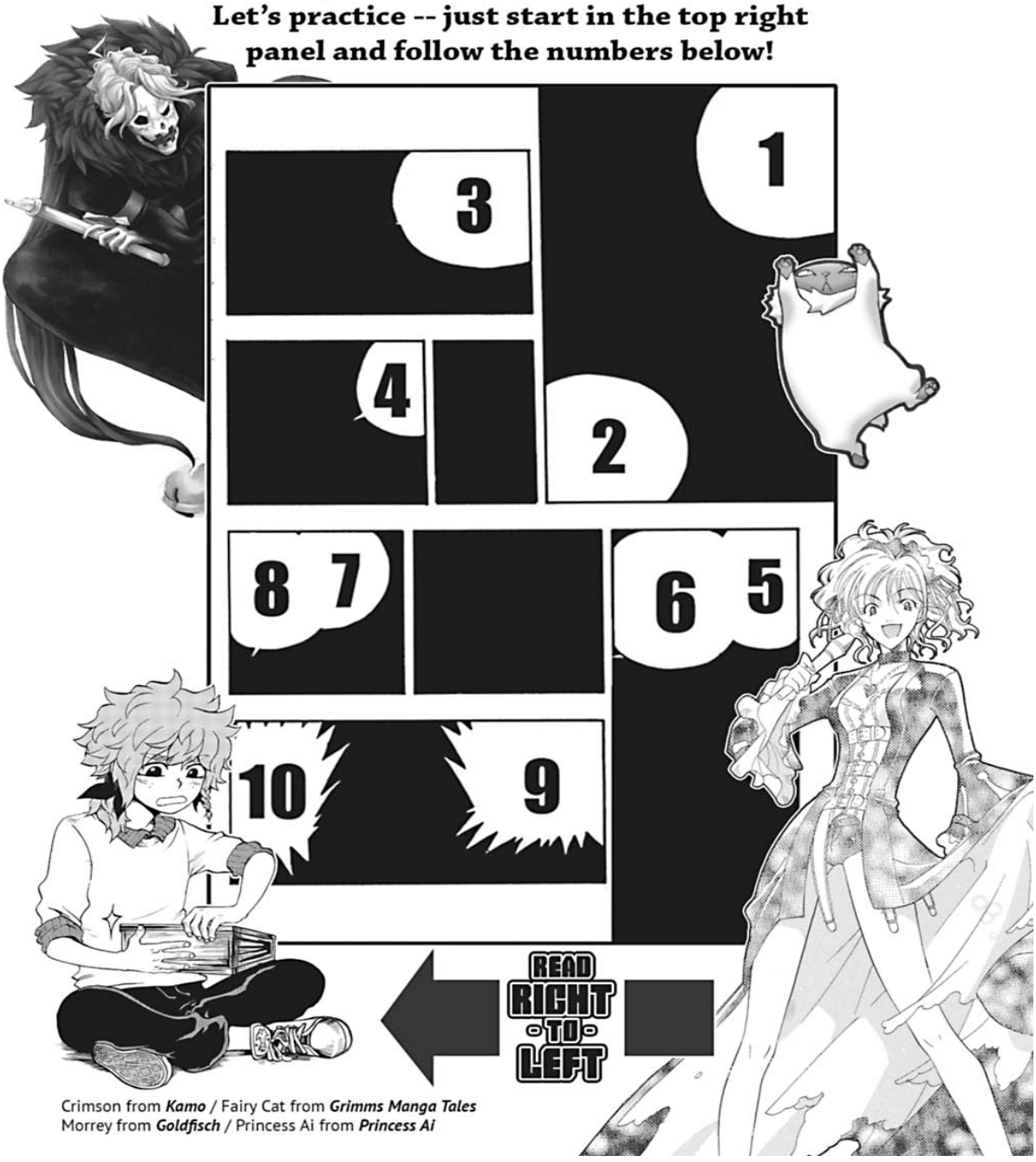


INTERNATIONAL WOMEN of MANGA

STOP

THIS IS THE BACK OF THE BOOK!

How do you read manga-style? It's simple! Let's practice -- just start in the top right panel and follow the numbers below!



Crimson from ***Kamo*** / Fairy Cat from ***Grimms Manga Tales***
Morrey from ***Goldfisch*** / Princess Ai from ***Princess Ai***